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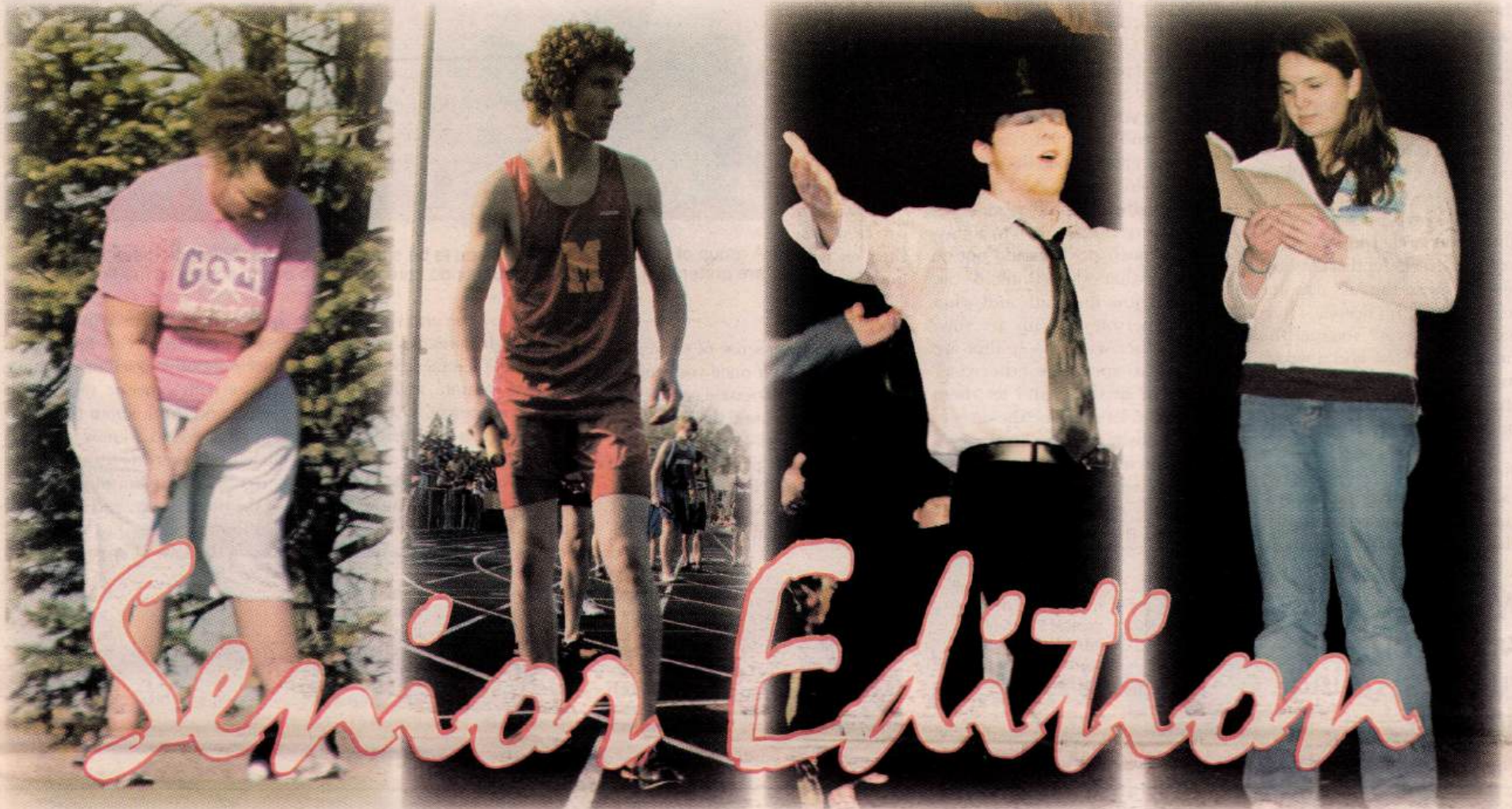


The Vox

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The voice of the Marion Indians.

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Smith has made big changes in four years

By: Tabitha Scott [Feature Editor]

The four years of high school can cause many changes for students. Some may be good, while others might not. It all just depends on the type of change that is made. Taking a look back on that, senior Rachel A. Smith is a great example of what changes high school can bring to a person. She sees herself now in a totally different light.

Rachel started high school as a freshman without worrying about anything bigger than little drama with her friends.

"I used to hang out with my friends all the time and that was it," explained Rachel, "none of us were dating anyone, but high school changed that."

The change for Rachel occurred in the summer going into her junior year, and the biggest change was easy to see by her body shape. "I just started working out a lot and eating healthier," Rachel shared.

What many people don't realize though, is that this change also occurred in Rachel mentally and emotionally. "I think that this change is really good and it makes me feel good about myself," added

Rachel.

Rachel has made everything about this change positive, and now she's happy with who she is. "I'm a lot more laid back and I feel good about who I am and my health," shared Rachel.

High school can change many people, in either a good or a bad way. What you do and what you make of it, though, makes you the person you are, "When kids reach high school they tend to care more about their looks and they become more independent," said Rachel, "but the person you make of yourself from these

changes is what matters most."

With that said, no matter what change may happen, make it what you want. High school is one of the shortest periods in a lifetime, but it definitely forms who we all are.



Rachel Smith,
Senior

The end is near, not necessarily so dear to the senior's hearts

Well it appears as if another year has come and gone. To me, this year went by insanely fast as a tumultuous blur of events and activities. I don't think I was paying attention half the time. Darn. But seriously I'm completely baffled at where all the time went. In no time there will be a new crop of freshmen to put in trash cans and give swirlies (just kidding of course). Current freshmen will become sophomores. Sophomores are now upper classmen. Juniors, in a quick transiton,



By: Matt Barnd
[Photo Editor]

are now seniors (scary huh?) And, of course, the seniors will be set free to wreak havoc and on the rest of the world (I say this in the nicest way possible). Now don't get emotional seniors, but this is the last issue of *The Vox* you will ever read as students at MHS.

Crying yet? Yeah I figured/hoped you

Commentary

wouldn't be. Then again maybe you are? Doubtful. Right now the image for the collective mood of the senior class that comes to my mind is a sprinter, poised in his blocks (here) ready to run very, very very fast the the finish line (anywhere but here). Now, this may not be true for everyone, but I think it's safe to assume this is a fairly widespread sentiment.

Drew Clark threw the shot put far.

Only 1,012 days until June 17 2011!!! I did a bit of research and on this date in 1462 Vlad the Impaler attempted to assassinate Mehmed II (yeah I don't know either). Actually there are some interesting events that occurred on this day throughout history. Just search "June 17" in Wikipedia. Yes yes yes, I know it's not a reliable source, but I use it anyway.

For the next paragraph I wish the newspaper had audio. Hey Sharon. (It's an inside joke. Well I guess not *that* inside. I would estimate roughly 79 of you are familiar with this simple saying. Don't worry it's perfectly

harmless everyone else. It's not really so much as joke as a phrase which is fun to say in a certain voice. Ian LeBeau was the creator. I just rambled in parentheses for a really long time about nothing. Sorry)

Anyway.....? How is everyone? And why do writers ask questions in their text? Do they expect answers? How stupid is that? Who do they think they are asking question like that? Makes me mad.

On a serious note I would like to take this opportunity to thank the senior class. Not for anything in particular, but just for being who you all are. I can't even begin to count the times so many of you have made me laugh at various times throughout the past few years. You're all genuine, caring, talented people. I know that you will go down as one of the most umm....unique classes in school history (again nicest way possible ☺) I'll miss so many of you dearly.

Well, there you have it. Now enjoy the rest of your *Vox*! I'll see you next year whether you like it or not hee...hee...hee. Farewell gov'nors!

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Rumors are taking over the school halls

Too much worrying about rumors is yielding disastrous results

Peanut butter and jelly. Milk and cookies. Cake and ice cream. Ah, the oh-so delicious foods that are synonymous with each other. If in some strange world high school was a food, what dish would it come served with? Yep, you guessed it—rumors! How could we have high school without a rumor's juicy goodness? We couldn't.

Nonetheless, as funny as it can be to observe someone flipping out over a bunch of lame, senseless drama, rumors and the whole fuss surrounding them are quite overrated. I know some of you, at surface depth, agree with this statement. But take a moment to look a little bit deeper. Do you really act this way? You may think rumors are a joke and a waste of time, but do you really practice what you preach? If not, then you should give it a shot.

Next time you hear something about yourself or someone asks you a question that happens to be completely ridiculous because of what they "heard from so-and-

so," try laughing it off and or just simply dismissing it instead of having a complete cow over it. There's a good chance it might just save you some energy and a whole lot of trouble in the long run! Because, after all, if it's not true, then why should it bother you? It shouldn't. But unfortunately, that's not the way things always seem to work with us high school students. However, next time it happens, just take a deep breath and think about how silly the situation is. That might just help you get over it and realize it's better to not worry about it and just happily move on with your day.

We tend to get extremely, and often too caught up in the way that others perceive us. And it might just be natural simply because of the society that we live in today. But so much stock should not be put into what others think of you. If you know the truth and what kind of person you truly are, then why bother with people that are willing to speculate otherwise? You can sit there and let them judge and let them be the ones to look foolish, or you can throw a fit and in turn make yourself look like an even worse person than you originally appeared. People who are your true friends or are wor-

thy of being your friend will not judge and they will take you for who you are. These are the people you should be spending the most of your time with anyways, not the others.

Then of course, there are those who intentionally start rumors about people, usually to get back at them, or because they're jealous for whatever reason. Do you really achieve a strong sense of satisfaction with yourself once your false rumor has fully bloomed and is being circulated around the school at a high frequency? I suppose there may be a couple people out there who do, and well I'm just going to have to say that you're evil. But for the others, next time you have a



A group of students at lunch pretend to be spreading rumors. Although these students are pretending, many other students do spread rumors during school all the time.

similar issue arise and you have a problem with someone, take it up with them to their face. Step up, be a man (or a woman), and talk it out with them in person. Not only will the other person be surprised, but they will probably be impressed with the way you handle the situation, and they will be more than willing to try to work out your problems with them. So, with this

approach, everyone wins!

So next time you learn of a rumor about yourself or you have an issue with someone, take a deep breath and think about the situation for a second. I know it sounds cliché, but there is most likely a better solution you can come to for the situation instead of the first solution that pops into your head among the slew of anger!

What do you do when you hear rumors going around?



"I usually just ignore rumors and don't spread the things I hear. If someone is starting a rumor about me I just confront them, it seems to solve the problem."
-Leah Smith, freshman



"Whenever I hear rumors I usually just ignore them, because they are stupid."
-Mitch Osborn, sophomore



"I don't pay attention to them. They are pointless and stupid. People who start them are bored with their lives."
-Shelby Perkins, junior



"I usually don't listen to them, I try not to get involved with stuff like that."
-Augie Logsdon, senior

A well deserved chance to kick back and relax

By: Patrick Tiernan [Opinion Editor]

Recently video of democratic candidate Hillary Clinton appeared in which she was drinking beer and taking shots of whiskey. Though perfectly legal, the video raises the question, should candidates drink while on the campaign trail? This is a case of moderation and boils down to how responsible the candidates are with the alcohol.

The process of running for president is a lengthy and very strenuous one. Candidates are constantly traveling all over the country and are always under the watchful eye of the media. It can be a very demanding process that can wear a person down.

Winding down with a glass of wine or some beer can help relieve the stress and in the overall picture help a candidate stay in a good mind set. As long as it is enjoyed in moderation, alcohol is a perfectly fine stress reliever for candidates.

Not only is a little alcohol deserved by the candidates, it's their constitutional right. All the candidates are well over 21, (especially McCain), and have every right to enjoy it as much as any other United States citizen. Yes, their roles at the moment are pretty significant, and yes it's important that they stay on top of their game. But one must remember that the candidates are still people and are constantly under a lot

of pressure and scrutiny and are maybe some of the most deserving to drink.

Though drinking alcohol is perfectly acceptable for the candidates they must remain very careful in how it's done. While they are deserving of the chance to wind down, there are risks to be aware of. There's a fine line between, "Hey look I'm a normal citizen like you," and having one too many drinks. At some point the actions are going to send a negative message to the country. Inappropriate comments slipped out and caught on tape would spread across the country through the media like virtual wild fire. One night could cost a candidate months and months of work. For this reason it's important that the type of drinking that candidates take part in is secluded. Reserved to privacy and the home and not as Hillary so daringly did in a bar.

Drinking on the campaign trail also

raises the question, what about if that candidate makes it into the white house, should they stop drinking then? In this situation it's best that the candidate does not drink and remain completely alert at all times. Unlike on the campaign trail, while in the white house the president must be ready to make decisions that immediately affect the entire country at all hours of the day. It is the president's job to make decisions with the country's best intentions in mind (at least I hear that's how it used to work) and the president cannot compromise that in order to kick back and relax.

Even though this might not be the most important issue at hand, a candidate drinking could possibly cost them the election. Though it is well deserved it can be very risky. For this reason the candidates must be very careful in how drinking is partaken in and where it happens.



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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.

Drivers continue to park illegally at MHS

Despite the addition of 77 parking spots last year, students still dare to break the rules.

By: Jenna Koppedryer [Staff Writer]

As you may have already known the parking lot has expanded. This past summer 77 parking spots were added, but that still hasn't fully solved our parking problems. Mr. Semler finds himself calling students down to the office to move their cars and every Saturday students find themselves at restitution because of parking illegal-



Two illegally parked cars are shown in the south parking lot of MHS. Almost everyday cars park illegally because there are no spots or because they don't want to walk a long distance.

ly. Let's be honest it's a bit ridiculous.

The administration at Marion made the decision to spend 7,400 dollars to add on to a parking lot that was undersized and overused. Most students are grateful for this addition and use it wisely, but there are still students out there who don't take full advantage of the 7,400 dollar addition.

Every day there are cars in the parking lot that are parked in spots not added by the administration. Last year, many students complained about how there was never anywhere to park, especially if a person had first block off, but now there are places to park and students still find ways to complain about their parking situation.

Almost every day there are students who have parked illegally. Then they complain about how they have nowhere to park. Most of these people who complain arrive at school everyday at 8:19 and don't even think of looking in the north parking lot. No one wants to hear someone whine and whimper about not having anywhere to park when they get to school as the bell is ringing. The north lot is filled with empty spots, no matter what time of day.

If a person is going to complain about parking, try to just show up at a half-way decent time and take a look in the north lot before creating a spot. The administration paid a lot of money to make a lot of people happy, so take advantage; just be happy!



"I think illegal parking is...illegal, wrong, and immoral and I did it once."
-Joe Allen, sophomore



"I think that if people are parking illegally we should have more spaces or people should come to school earlier."
-Shawna Van Meighem, junior



"If there's no spots it's ok but if there are spots the people can suck it up and walk to the school."
-Alanah Johnson, junior



"I think it's ridiculous that people park illegally but we should be able to use the grass."
-Ian LeBeau, senior

MHS could greatly benefit from new science rooms

By: Tabitha Scott
[Feature Editor]

Every student here at Marion High School has taken a science class at some point in time. Through this, students all get to see just how poor the science rooms really are. There is no space, a few of them are very dirty and messy, and they don't make for a good learning environment. The science rooms get little attention in this school, and it's something that needs to be changed.

One idea for a change is to add a new science wing in the back part of the high school. Doing this would allow for more space and room for all the students and teachers. Everything in the rooms now are way overcrowded and there is not enough space for what little equipment they do have. By adding this new wing, there would be more space to work with, and there would be room for

some new equipment that the science department could use. Also, the lab space would be more spread out and it would be easier for students to work and learn in.

Another topic is the cleanliness of the rooms. If anyone walks into Mr. Perkins' or Mr. Clark's room, they will see so many things that have been packed close together that

it is close to impossible to keep it all clean and organized. They also grow plants and keep a variety of animals in their rooms. This makes the rooms even messier than

they need to be. With a new science wing, teachers could have a room just for those. This way, the rooms wouldn't be as messy or as unorganized, and it would allow for a better learning environment.

The best thing would be for a science wing to be built that is modern and well-equipped.

By adding this new wing, there would be more space to work with, and there would be room for some new equipment that the science department could use.



A crowded science room at Marion High School is shown. If a new science wing would be built there would be more room for the items shown and it wouldn't need to be as cluttered. Currently there are five classrooms at MHS designated for science.

Jazzing up the school with music

By: Sam Rinehart
[Staff Writer]

A bell is just an annoying sound that students at school hear thirteen times a day. Instead of complaining about these strenuous sounds, there is a solution. What if every time class was dismissed, or when school started, there was a song that played? It would give students five seconds to relax and not have every hair on their body stand straight up from the irritating bells. Students hear the same sound thirteen times a day, and adding a song as the dismissal system would add variety to everyone's day.

Many students are into their own genre of music. Some students don't have much variety in their choice of music, so with music as the dismissal system, students would be involved in more culture-rich environment, just by coming to school.

Most peoples' cell phones have ring tones set as their favorite songs. Instead of hearing the monotonous ring of a telephone every time the phone rings, people change it up to hear something more lively. Why not use the same strategy while at school? Instead of hearing the annoying bell, it would just be like a ring tone.

Bells raise stress levels of students, who are already stressed about their homework that they have to finish along with everything else they have to study for. With more relaxing sounds, it may help lower the of stress levels. Students may start receiving better grades having less to stress about.

If the bells were kept the same everyday and the same sound came for each time, it would be easier to remember where a student was going. So for each lunch time there would be the same relaxing sound. It would be

less stressful for students because they wouldn't need to think so much. The students would know what the sound is without thinking because songs help people learn. In classes like Spanish, the teachers try to think of songs to make it easier to remember things. So why not change our schedule system to make it easier on students?

A bell is just an obnoxious sound to dismiss class. Why not have it be less strenuous and stressful? Why not have a gentle relaxing song to dismiss and start class instead of the dreaded bell everyday?

Friends would get along better because they wouldn't be as stressed and everything at school would start to clear up quicker because no one would be worried about the annoying bells. The bells need to go and we all need to become less stressed.

The benefits of having songs instead of bells

- Would relieve the stress of the normal school day
- Students could request their favorite songs and become involved in school
- Would spice up the students day with different songs playing instead of the same monotonous bell
- Think of how cool it would be to hear "Good Vibrations" by Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch everyday
- The same song schedule would help kids remember where they need to go

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Inexperienced team looks to underclassmen

The boys soccer team is young and inexperienced, but are strong together where it matters most

By: Matt Barnd [Photo Editor]

Senior leadership is an instrumental part to the success of a majority of high school athletic teams. These seasoned veterans can be relied on when adverse conditions come up and in big time situations. However, not all teams are lucky enough to have a plethora of senior leaders to go to. The boys soccer team possesses only one senior, which has called for some major adjustments.

"Jay Hagen is our only senior," Junior Derek Kruger commented. "Our team relies on him and he helps out a lot. He is one of our three captains. It's made it so there were more spots to fill on the team and so a lot of us haven't really played together."

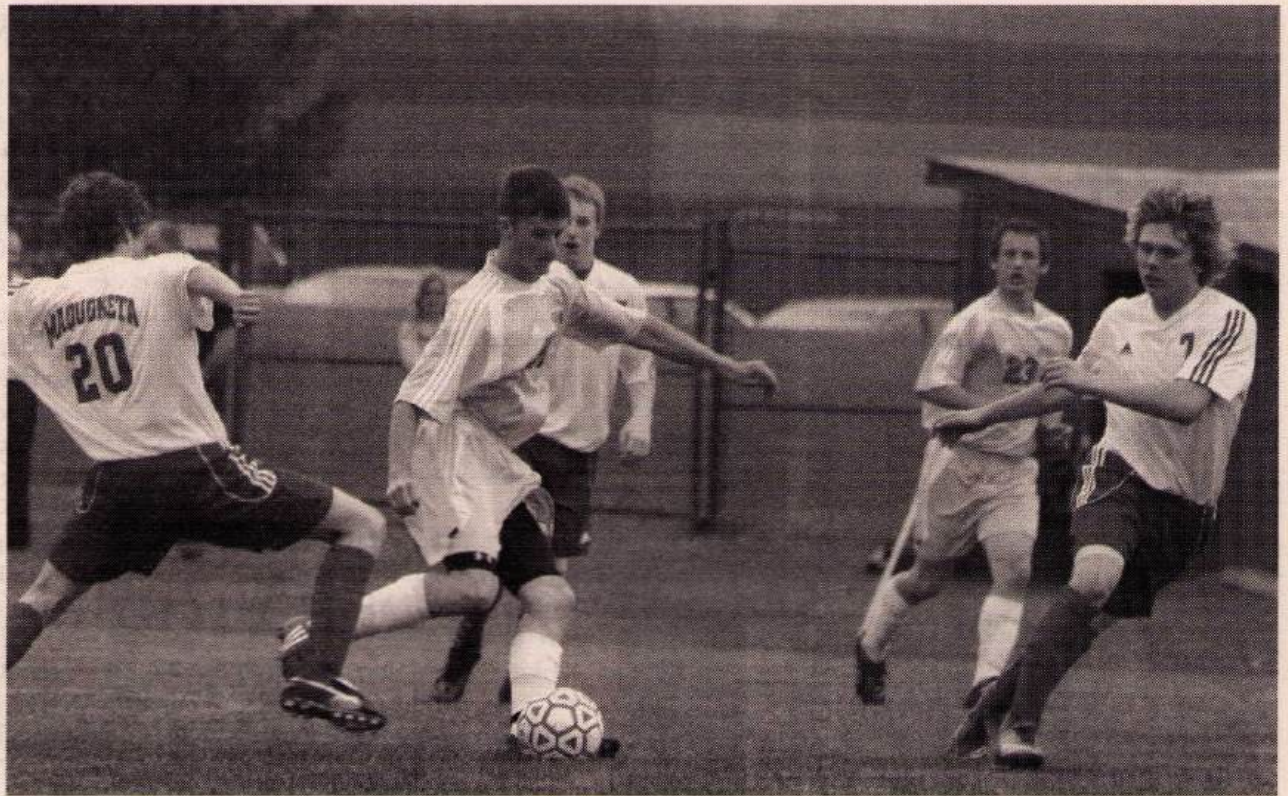


Derek Kruger, junior

This has called for some players to step up and do some things that they otherwise wouldn't have to. "At times, some other people have had to come and fill those leadership spots," Derrick added.

The three freshmen who have been asked to start on the varsity squad certainly fall into this category. Curran Lipsett, Steen Irish, and Keagen Menken had to make the straight transition from middle school to varsity ball. So far the have performed nicely. "They're doing well and really helping the team out in the roles that they have had to fill," Kruger said of the youngsters.

This lack of upperclassmen hasn't made the team set



Steen Irish, freshman, dribbles the ball down the field while the Maquoketa defenders surround him. Maquoketa made a good attempt, but couldn't defeat the Indians. Marion won 3 to 1.

their sights any lower, however. "We haven't really set any official 'goals' but it would be really cool if we were the first team at Marion to win the WaMaC," Kruger commented.

It appears that this might be out of reach for the Indians at this point with a record of 10-2, but this definitely won't affect the intensity the team plays with and the hard work

they put in each and every day at their practices. The boys continue to build chemistry and improve under the guidance of coaches Jon Hauskins and Eric Hubbell. Both of those coaches are Marion High School graduates and both played on the varsity boys soccer team a few years back. The future of Marion boys soccer is bright.

Girls skippin' out on rain

By: Samuel Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Golf is unique. It's a hobby but is also a sport at the same time. "Golf is one of those things that I did just because I wanted to have a good time, but it turned into something else. I learned to love it," Muriel Oltmann stated so proudly. The girl's golf team on average has about 12 girls join annually; some don't return.



Muriel Oltmann, junior

Muriel sure did, she's been coming back every year since her freshman golf season. "I love it, I get to golf every day after school, and at the same time I get to hang out with some of the funniest girls in the world."

Golf is one of those sports that you

can be not amazing at, but still have a blast at it. "I know that I'm not the best, but I still have fun doing it," Muriel stated. "When you golf it's a feeling that can't be beat. Even just being outside makes it better than anything else."

Muriel has been participated in golf since she was a freshman. "It doesn't feel like it's my third year being in golf, I think it's gone by so fast because we have so much fun. We take it seriously but the team and I still know how to have fun," Muriel stated.

The girls golf team has up to ten meets annually. Some other sports have had to cancel tennis and track meets, and even soccer games. But what about the golf team, some may ask why they have barely had any meets get cancelled? "It seems like we have all of our meets at the perfect times, we barely ever get practice or even meets cancelled or postponed due to weather," Muriel added.

The girls golf team has nine-hole meets, but they also have a lot of eighteen-hole meets. "It sucks having to do the eighteen-hole meets, it seems weird that we're high school golfers and we're golfing the same amount as professionals," Muriel said with confusion. "And the eighteen hole meets take a really long time to finish."



Alexis Bailey, junior, tees off at the Marion Invitational at Gardner golf course. This is Alexis' third year on varsity.

Having some fun in the sun

By: Pat Tiernan [Opinion Editor]

With last year's varsity tennis team enjoying an undefeated regular season and only one of the six varsity players returning, it's safe to say there was a decent amount of pressure on this season's team. Though the group hasn't experienced the same successes, it's not saying they aren't giving it their all.

One student who has been preparing for the season and looks forward to what it will bring is sophomore Greg Bys. Greg spent the summer months practicing along with teammates at the high school courts. Greg commented on the workouts, "It was important to practice because I improved my skills by working on my back hands and serving." Joining him in the brutal weather was varsity teammates Dan Bandfield, Bryce Shriner, and Cyle Clinton. Other teammates making up the Varsity Tennis Team are freshman Keleb Gehman and the lone varsity returnee, senior Sam Hart.

Greg enjoyed success at the J.V. level last season with a 6-2 record and would like to see some of the same results. His goals for this season aren't too extensive and simply include to win at least a couple meets and to win some double matches with teammate Bryce. While

success is fun it's not the most enjoyable thing about tennis for Greg, "My favorite things about tennis include being outdoors, my sweet racket, and the competition."

Though keeping a positive outlook, Greg admits that the team as a whole doesn't have the same skill level as last year, "It's disappointing because now we're not as good as before." One upside to this fact is the pressure of repeating last year's success is minimal, Greg commented, "There is no pressure because we knew we weren't going to be as good because we lost five of our six varsity players from last year." Even if measurable success isn't achieved Greg realizes at the end of the year there will still be accomplishments, "I think at the end of the season we'll end up being well-rounded players and we'll have good memories."

While a state championship might not be in reach, the team will continue to try their best every meet and enjoy themselves while doing it.



Greg Bys, sophomore

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He's the all around best

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Track is a spring sport, we all know that. But the saying goes, "Spring showers brings May flowers." Showers is definitely what the weather was like on Thursday, April 24th and Friday, April 25th, 2008. For all of you non-track enthusiasts, those two days are the first and second day of the Drake Relays.

Drake University has hosted the meet every year since 1909. Drake is known for its blue track mostly, but the school is also known for hosting the Drake Relays, the most prestigious of all high school track meets. After Drake comes state and the only difference between the Drake Relays and the state meet is that at Drake there are no school size barriers. So that means that the small 1A schools are competing against the gigantic 4A schools. To win the Drake Relays in any event means that you are the best in your event of every runner of thrower in the state, not just in your school size but in the whole state regardless of school size.

This year marked the 99th anniversary of the Drake Relays, and Marion High School's very own Drew Clark, '09, was there for the action. Drew wasn't only there he dominated the competition and came out on top in the shot put. "Yeah it felt really good to come out on top at Drake," Drew announced.

This isn't the first time Drew has made and appearance at Drake. He also qualified last year in the shot. "Last year as a sophomore I placed 10th

at drake in the shot. So this year I really wanted to improve, all my hard work really paid off." Drew said

The shot put was on the Friday of the Drake Relays weekend. "In the shot put the prelims and finals are on the same day," Drew confirmed. In the shot put you get 3 chances and the best of those three chances is your score. "In the prelims on my first put I got in out 55 feet, after I did that I knew that I would make it to the finals. It was good that I got a good throw on my first try since I scratched on my second and third put," Drew stated.

Since at Drake you're competing against the whole state, the competition is usually greater than any other meet held throughout the track season. "The competition seemed extra difficult this year. All the guys were jacked up because it was Drake, so that helped a lot of people throw better than they usually would," Clark stated proudly.

Drew thought that maybe he could have done a lot better if the weather would have been more permitting. On Thursday earlier during the day it had rained for a substantial amount of time, and trust that the water accumulated. "All the water from the rain had drained down into the field, and went over into the pit. That made it kind of slippery," Drew stated.

Drew definitely made an impressive showing at Drake and it is expected that he will do that same at the state meet in mid May. "I'm excited for state now that I saw what was at Drake," Drew said with confidence.



Drew Clark, junior, spins to pick up momentum as he prepares to throw the shotput at the district meet at Thomas Park.

Making new memories

By: Jordan Garretson
[Co-Executive Editor]

It is often agreed upon that the baseball season is the longest among any high school sports. While it may or may not be by the actual calendar length, the long summer days spent out in the beaming sunshine hitting the tires or chasing down fly balls are undoubtedly

exhausting. For Ryan Clark, senior, this is especially true, as he rarely finds a break in baseball activity long enough to be deemed an "off-season."

"Well I guess there is no off-season for me,"

Ryan said. But

the official season holds a specific place in Ryan's mind, which he misses dearly every year. "What I miss the most about summer is probably Coach Fish's jokes or days when I know I'm pitching," Ryan explained.

Of course there are the negatives for Ryan as well. "[What I miss the least is] easily how much time it takes up, some days are a 12 hour day," Ryan said. But the time that baseball takes up doesn't cause Ryan's commitment to falter, by any means. Ryan has been playing baseball, or at least a form of it, ever since he was 6, when he started with t-ball. And with the '08 season being his last before he moves on to play at Kirkwood next year, he had been working to make it his best yet. "[I focused on] my command while pitching, and just being able to hit spots," Ryan stated.

For Ryan's high school career, he has seen the majority of his work come from the pitching mound, as well as the outfield when not pitching. However, there may be a slight change to that

this upcoming season. "I might play first this year, a little less strenuous on the arm when I'm not pitching," Ryan explained. At first base, Ryan would be on the finishing end of the majority of plays, as opposed to the outfield where he would have to make longer throws more often.

Ryan recognizes that the team will have its work cut out for it in trying to fill the holes that are left from players leaving last year. "The most important thing is batting, we lost a lot of good hitters last year so I think that will be the x-factor for our team, how well we bat," Ryan exclaimed. Nonetheless, Ryan still has high aspirations for himself and the team this year. "[My goals are] For the team I hope to win the WaMaC and make it to state, and for myself to win 10 games [as pitcher]," Ryan shared.

Among Ryan's favorite moments in his baseball career is when he won two games as Pitcher against Benton last season, as well as going to state his sophomore year. Ryan and the rest of the Indians will be looking forward to making more great moments like these in '08.

2007 Baseball Season: In Review

Record: 22-11 (12-4 WaMaC, 2nd place)

Post-season: 11-1 L vs Xavier (District semi-final)

Key returning hitters: Patrick Lala (.417)
Broc Dabling (.289)

Key returning pitchers: Lala (1.97 ERA)
Matt Barnd (2.56 ERA) Clark (4.85 ERA)

Key losses: Kevin Schuver, Zeth



Ryan Clark, senior
baseball player

Softball turns over a new leaf

By: Jenna Koppedryer
[Staff Writer]

In last couple of years the softball program has hit a rough patch. With over 20 different coaches in the last 10 years, it has been hard to get the program up and running. But now, with Kim Knapp as the coach and some persistence, the softball program is determined to make a 180-degree turn.

"I would have liked for us to do better last year," said Rachel Dullea, senior, "we had a lot of talent, we just couldn't connect." This was the general feeling among most of the softball fans and roster. The softball 2007 team ended with a 17 and 21 season, and a less than satisfying finish. But new coach Kim Knapp plans on making some significant changes.

"We're turning over a new leaf," said Rachel Dullea. By this they mean changing the entire look, starting with the dugouts. You may not have noticed, but the dugouts have had a color change from the plain old green to a spirited red and yellow.

But the dugouts aren't the only ones with spirit, the softball team has a new spirit and new determination as well. "We really want to turn our team around," explained Rachel, "instead of having more losses than wins, we want to see more wins."

How do they plan on making these changes? "We are making a stronger dedication and are working harder than ever before," Rachel said. Rachel and many of the other girls are going to workouts every week. "We work a lot on fundamentals and some of the primary skills for softball," explained Rachel. Although it may seem repetitive, these workouts really do help. "Every year you come into the season and you haven't played for nine months straight and all of a sudden you're thrown into game you feel like you haven't played for years," Rachel said, "but now that we have the workouts I don't feel that way."

The softball program has much to look forward to and many victories to enjoy. But they have to do the work before they can experience the joy.



"Every year you come into the season and you haven't played for nine months straight and all of a sudden you're thrown into game you feel like you haven't played for years, but now that we have the workouts I don't feel that way."

-Rachel Dullea, senior

2007 Softball Season: In Review

Record: 17-21 (7-12 WaMaC)

Post-season: 2-1 L vs West Delaware (District semi-final)

Key returning players: Katelynn Edwards, Sydney Bean, Shelby Perkins, Rachel Dullea

Key losses: Alyssa White, Tara Carsner



"I'm looking forward to having fun and winning."
-Lesley Hennessey, sophomore



"I think we will be much improved and more of a team this year."
-Shelby Perkins, junior

One of the early years' best

The recent success of the movie *Iron Man*, yet another movie based on a Marvel comic book, entertains movie goers of all ages.

By: Patrick Tiernan
[Opinion Editor]

I have to admit the first time I saw the preview for *Iron Man* I didn't have good initial thoughts. The plot just didn't seem probable and I wasn't very fond of a man building a suit to escape a terrorist capture. After seeing *Iron Man* though, my overall opinion of the movie has changed and taking into mind it's based on a comic book, I can let certain things

go.

Despite low expectations, I ended up enjoying this movie very much. The movie holds the right combination of action and comedy and follows an interesting story line. The movie includes mind-blowing technology along with solid special effects. Robert Downey Jr is great in the lead as Tony Stark and Gwyneth Paltrow fits in well as his trusty assistant.

The basic plot around *Iron Man*

centers around an extremely brilliant and wealthy businessman named Tony Stark. After graduating from M.I.T. at the age of seventeen and getting hold of his father's weapon manufacturing business at age twenty-one, Stark is one of the most powerful men in the world. After a traumatic experience though, in which he is captured by terrorists who try to force him to build them one of his weapons, Stark makes some life changing decisions. Stark changes from his old ways and decides to start putting his efforts into doing good things for the world.

Iron Man is solid throughout and joins a long list of Marvel comic books made into successful movies. *Iron Man* joins a solid list that includes the X-Men films, The Hulk, the Spiderman films, Fantastic Four movies, The Punisher, Blade movies, Daredevil, Electra, and Ghost Rider.

I would recommend *Iron Man* to anyone who is a fan of the other Marvel Studios movies or action flicks in general. *Iron Man* is exciting and interesting from beginning to end and is sure to entertain. Overall I rate *Iron Man* a three and a half out of four.



The *Iron Man* movie display is shown at the Wehrenberg Galaxy. *Iron Man* has done well in the theatres and earned over 100 million dollars in the opening weekend.

What did you think about *Iron Man*?



"It was decent because it had good action but it's still something that little kids would like better."

-Alex Farmer, freshman



"*Iron Man* was really really good for a comic book adaption."

-Morgan Paige, sophomore



"I thought it was awesome, it had a good story line and really good special effects."

-James Soldner, junior



"I thought *Iron Man* was great and that Robert Downey Jr did a great job in his part."

-Justin Scott, junior

Mariah Carey is the still the boss

By: Sam Rinehart [Staff Writer]

Some people may just know her by her many number one hits, some know her by her many nicknames. No matter how they know her, she is still one of the best of all time. Mariah Carey is the only female artist and the 2nd artist of all time behind Elvis to have eighteen number one songs on the top 100 billboard. Mariah's latest CD release is called E=MC2, but many people know her songs from her album before called The Emancipation of Mimi.

Mariah Carey can sing in many octaves. Her highest octave is two octaves higher than the highest soprano. Mariah has many skills in singing and has a beautiful voice, however, she does not only have a voice, but also meaningful lyrics. Her song hero was a huge step in her career and helped many people realize that they are special. Mariah

changed people's views of themselves and helped them live their life to the fullest.

Mariah's new CD has fourteen songs. One of her songs is called *Touch My Body* and many people get the wrong impression of Mariah from this song. They assume that this is all she is about. Mariah's CD has other songs on relationships, friendships and other important aspects to life. The songs have important meanings behind them and they can be heard by just listening to the words. Not only are there deep ideas in the songs, but it doesn't hurt the ears. Her voice is amazing.

In her new CD, it really shows off all of her talents in writing. There are fast pace and slow pace songs. The different genres of songs show off her wide ability to sing. Her voice is the best thing about this CD. It is recommended that the CD is bought and listened to over and over. It is that good.

Mariah's Number One Hits

- (1) Vision Of Love
- (2) Love Takes Time
- (3) Someday
- (4) I Don't Wanna Cry
- (5) Emotions
- (6) I'll Be There
- (7) Dreamlover
- (8) Hero
- (9) Fantasy
- (10) One Sweet Day
- (11) Always Be My Baby
- (12) Honey
- (13) My All
- (14) Heartbreaker
- (15) Thank God I Found You
- (16) We Belong Together
- (17) Shake It Off
- (18) Touch My Body

"Mariah Carey is naturally a good singer."

-Zach Sindelar, senior



"Her version of 'We Belong Together' really gets me."

-Kelsey Labs, junior



"I like to listen to Mariah Carey because she is very inspiring to me."

-Brittany Fish, sophomore



Book has perfect ingredients

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Love, friendship, and death, sounds like the right ingredients to a perfect read. All three of those things previously listed are in the book, *Looking for Alaska*, written by John Green. The story starts with Miles "pudge" Alter. Miles, a normal kid from a middle class family, dad wants him to go to a private preparatory academy in Alabama, which his dad also attended years before he doesn't really vocally protest this decision that was made for him, since he is what some might call an "outcast."

Once Miles gets to the school, in late August, he and his parents unload all of his belongings. Of course his mother has to go up to his room and make his bed for the first time and get everything squared away, but after all of that he says his good-byes to his parents and they leave. Almost immediately after his parents leave the reader meets, The Colonel. The colonel is a very intelligent boy who comes from hard a background. Once Miles and The Colonel introduce themselves they go out for some fun, where Miles meets Alaska, a beautiful girl with a free spirit and an intelligent mind.

Alaska is the focus of the whole story. She comes from a very interesting background. When she was fairly young, Alaska's mom tragically died. Alaska was right there when he mother went down, and

being so young didn't know what to do. Alaska's father blamed the death on her. She was unaware of what was going on but was aware that her mother was gone and her father hated her, hated her so much that he sent her away to school in Alabama. On that tragic day of her mother's death, Alaska decided that she would remember this day every year and visit her mothers grave to let her know that she did love her, and didn't mean for this to happen.

After a fun run of getting into trouble, cheating on tests, and building friendships, the year seemed to be going perfect. But then something happened. "Alaska" realized that it was the day of her mother's death, and she had forgotten. So, Alaska drove off the schools campus and on her way she rammed her car into another car. This accident ended her life.

But Miles and The Colonel beg to differ. To them it was not an accident it was a suicide. This story is about love and forgiveness. And if anyone has ever lost a loved one this book is the book for you.

Looking for Alaska, has all of the main ingredients that need to be in a good novel. This book isn't only a good book, it's an amazing piece of literature. The story starts and ends perfectly, from the first sentence to the closing paragraph. It ended with great closure.

Looking for Alaska won the 2006 Michael L. Printz Award from the American Library Association and a movie adaptation is planned to be released in 2008.

Maddie's is the place for southern-food lovers

Conveniently located right

By: Chelsey Banes
[Co-Executive Editor]

Maddie's Place is a family owned restaurant located off Tama Street, right inside the doors of the M.A.C. Extreme. Maddie's Place opened October 22nd, 2007. "We opened because there are too many fast food and not enough Southern homemade food," stated ???

Maddie's place has a variety of food that changes every week. "Our menu changes weekly so you never are bored with the menu," commented ? owner of Maddie's Place. From soups and salads to gumbo and jambalaya Maddie's place is sure to have what you're looking for. The food is all homemade and to die for. The best part about the food is its uniqueness and it's southern tang. Not only is there entrées there are delicious homemade desserts like Punch Bowl Cake, which is a layered yellow cake with cherries pineapple, and whipped cream

and fruit filled smoothies. If the food isn't enough to get you to come in the prices definitely are. Almost everything on their menu is under ten dollars and will fill you up. Maddie's Place also serves for groups and does catering.

Not only is the food excellent but also the service is great. The workers are very kind and welcoming and the environment its very comfy cozy. It's a great place to go and relax after a hard day at work or school or even hang out at before going out on a Friday night. You can even stop in with a group of friends and have a good home cooked meal of your choice. The owners work hard to keep the restaurant fun and entertaining by having couples night and in the summer they have a weekly barbeque. You'll often hear the upscale jazz music pouring out.

If you're looking for a place to eat lunch but your not craving a greasy hamburger and fries, Maddie's Place is the place for you to go. With it's homemade food and its southern tang and southern hospitality you'll keep coming back for more.



Maddie's Place is conveniently located right inside of The M.A.C. The restaurant changes their menu weekly to include specials and other novelties. It's all delicious and homemade and with a southern tang.

Intriguing Internet

With all the technology in the world today there really is no excuse for being bored. Out of everything offered though my favorite, barely edging out television, are computers and the Internet. With countless websites that offer basically everything imaginable the Internet is a great way to pass some time.

As much as I hate to admit it, I really do love Facebook. There's just something about being able to jump from person to person, learning details about others that you really didn't want to. From the ridiculous groups to the fun applications, Facebook offers hours of entertainment. Facebook also gets better with age because, as its popularity continues to grow, so will its capabilities and applications.

Another amusing website has a name tells it all, addicting games.com. With games from numerous genres, this is the perfect website if you are bored and looking for something to do. There are literally thousands of games to choose from and you are sure to find one you will enjoy. My personal favorites include The Impossible Quiz, Mini Put, Boneless Girl, Curveball, and Clear Vision.

One website that I've spent hours on a time at is Moola.com. Moola is a website where you can play three simple games for free with actual money. Because Moola makes all of its money through advertising, the user never once has to pay for anything. Once you sign up you receive a free penny and off you go. Though a little boring at first once you get into the serious cash, Moola becomes extremely entertaining and addicting.

What I believe to be the next generation in Internet and television, Hulu.com is a website where you can watch full-length television shows and funny movie clips. There are hundreds of choices to watch and Hulu includes some of the biggest shows like The Office, House, and Family Guy. The quality is excellent and the clips download fairly fast. The only downside is that only newer episodes are featured and the movies aren't full length. All in all though Hulu is a very entertaining site.

Some of the best sites of the Internet are the random and completely ridiculous ones that are surprisingly entertaining. Recently I found a Youtube video (Bored? 10 Fun/Weird/Funny/Cool Interactive Websites) that features websites that are unique and surprisingly amusing. Some of my favorites are virtual bubble wrap, lite brite, make my people sing, string spin toy, and the zoom quilt. All the sites highlight one activity and are a great way to shoot the breeze.

Next time you find yourself on the Internet searching for an interesting site check one of the previously mentioned. Each site offers a different way to stay occupied and maybe even a couple bucks richer.



By: Pat Tiernan
[Opinion Editor]

MTV takes a new spin on newspaper

By: Matt Barnd [Photo Editor]

Knowing this from being a member of the journalism class for three years, I can tell you first hand that the tension and drama that can be found inside these classrooms can at times be nothing short of ridiculous. The tumult of deadlines, relationships, and gossip cause for a situation ready to explode. This everyday stress filled hostility is captured in MTV's new reality show "The Paper."

The show follows several of the main editors in the Journalism class at Cypress Bay High school, which has one of the largest student bodies of any high school in the country. To these kids, the paper is their life. Occupying a majority of their livelihood and always on their minds, the students live and die by their work. For most it is the only extra/co-curricular activity they participate in, and for many it is their future career dream, and the only thing they want to be doing in their adult life.

The main focus of the show revolves round the editor in chief. The first episode of the season followed the selection process and displayed how important this position is to the members of the paper staff, and what each individual did

to attempt to make themselves stand out from the other candidates. The girl who ends up obtaining the position is disliked by almost all of the rest of the staff. This makes for some interesting, awkward, and rather humorous situations.

This show appears to be consistent with a majority of MTV shows, having over the top characters in the midst of overly dramatic situations. It is entertaining to see the awkward situations unfold before you and to laugh at a few of the ridiculous characters. Despite being called the paper, a large part of the 22 minutes that makes up each episode is delegated to situations not necessarily relevant to their journalistic work. Instead, it focuses on the drama and tension amidst the characters, which can be associated with any high school scene. It's interesting, but common everyday material.

The show may be worth thirty minutes of your time, but I would hesitate to tell you to make watching "The Paper" a normal part of your Monday evening routine. Lacking a lot of substance, "The Paper" certainly won't provide a life changing experience for you, but it will provide a half hour's worth of entertainment if don't have anything else to do.

For some the wait is worth it

By: Jenna Koppedryer
[Staff Writer]

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! It's that time of year again! The ice cream season has officially started. But there are so many places to go and ice cream to eat, so where do you start?

Well let's start with the basics if you want the classic soft-serve ice cream cone the good ol' Dairy Queen or The Freeze is the way to go. But that's not all they have to offer, The Freeze also has all different kinds of blizzards, slushies, and lots of other great ice cream creations. Another plus

about The Freeze is that it has that home town feel. Tastee Freeze is located on Grand Avenue and 11th Street only a couple blocks from the high school. Tastee Freeze has been in Marion since I can remember, and each and every time I have been more than pleased with their products. You may be able to get the same kinds of ice cream somewhere else, but The Freeze just makes me feel like home

But let's say The Freeze just isn't floatin' your boat, Dairy Queen is the next best thing. Dairy Queen But let's say The Freeze just isn't floatin' your boat, Dairy Queen is the next best thing. Dairy Queen and The Freeze have the

same kinds of ice cream, but Dairy Queen has a wider variety of selection compared to Tastee Freeze. Dairy Queen also offers different kinds of creations, such as chocolate covered cherry blizzards and brownie earthquake desert. Some Dairy Queens even offer other things besides ice cream like cheese balls, chili cheese dogs and various other snacks. There are two Dairy Queen locations in Marion one at 1101 Eagleview Blvd. and the other at 2100 Seventh Avenue.

Dairy Queen and The Freeze are similar in their styles, but Cold Stone is on the opposite end of the ice cream spectrum. At Cold Stone you can choose to have one of their many creations or dare to make your own. But there's more to choose from than just plain vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry. At Cold Stone, they also have other crazy ice creams like cake batter, cheesecake, or oatmeal cookie batter ice cream. So if you're looking for something different and new, Cold Stone is the way to go.

The Freeze, Dairy Queen, or Cold Stone, all of them are great and can satisfy your ice cream craving. If you're looking for blizzards or slushies, The Freeze and Dairy Queen are your best bet. But if you're looking for something fresh and innovative Cold Stone will please your pallet. Either way you go, all of these places are undoubtedly grand.



Cold Stone Creamery is located off either Highway 100, or Collins Rd. in Marion. It is very normal for the line to protrude outside the door.

Past, Present, Future



Ryther takes big steps into the real world

Chelsey Banes [Co-Executive Editor]

Like many seniors from Marion High School, Natalie Ryther, headed to college after graduating from Marion in 2007. Natalie was involved with a lot at the high school such as being a volleyball captain and homecoming queen in 2006.

Although Natalie left for U of I almost a year ago, she continues many of her friendships she had during high school. Although some are far away, the strength of their friendship has lasted them all year. "We always hang out when we are back, together or go up and visit. It is also nice having one of my best friends at college with me, only a hallway away," Commented Natalie. Besides keeping her high school friends Natalie has continued to make new friends. "Most of my new friends are from my sorority(alpha phi). There are about 30 girls that joined my sorority house the same time as I did and I love all of them." Stated Natalie. Joining a sorority should be an option everyone considers, "I believe joining the greek system was the best way for me to make friends. We do a lot of great things through being in a sorority, a lot of community service and donating to our favorite organization (American Heart Association)." Natalie added.

As seniors, picking a major can be tough for anyone, as Natalie found out, you might not always stick to what you pick anywyas. "I originally came to school to be a nurse, but the competitiveness of the program (75/300 make it) I was pretty turned off so second semester I have switched to elementary education," explained Natalie. Although switching a major can be difficult, it can really pay off. "I LOVE IT," Natalie exclaimed.

Besides picking a major, another tough decision for many seniors face is picking their college. There are endless choices of colleges from universities to community schools. Some are lucky enough to choose the college of their dreams while others wind up switching after the first semester. "I LOVE the University of Iowa, there are so many different groups of people and so many opportunities to be involved. I also love the size and how beautiful the campus is," Natalie elaborated. The campus isn't the only concern of many college students, the dorms and apartments offered are also important. "I live in Burge and love it because it is right in the middle of campus and of the two dining areas on campus, Burge has one right in it," offered Natalie. Therefore, whether it's the food or the bedrooms there are many things to consider before heading off to college.

Leaving high school is something everyone looks forward to, graduating and finally getting a chance to make their mark on the world. Natalie stated, "My favorite part of college is being independent and hanging out with my friends." Though being away from high school and home can be fun there are always things to be missed. "The thing I miss most about high school is definitely playing sports and being involved."

I also miss how easy it was and how much I took it for granted," added Natalie.

College can be a fun, new experience but can also be a lot of work. "The hardest transition from high school to college was learning how to study. It hit me pretty hard first semester, but I'm finally catching on," said Natalie. Although Natalie isn't one to have any regrets there are a few things she would have changed. "I wish in high school I would've taken courses at Kirkwood to get ahead. Since Marion will pay for some of them, I should of taken advantage of that," sigh Natalie. Natalie knows she can't change anything now but she hopes her advice can hel someone else. "Work your butt off in high school and get good study habits then, then college won't be such a slap in the face. Hang out with your friends as much as you can in high school, because you will miss them a lot when you go to college," ended Natalie.



Future Engineer continues path at IS

By: Jenna Koppedryer (Staff Writer)

Many juniors at Marion High School try to get them selves prepared for their senior year, but one student is leading the way. Isaac Glidewell, junior is that one special student. He has already had three college visits, already has taken A.P. classes, and already has secured internships for next year. One could say that all of those things are definitely going to prepare him for his senior year and for college in the future.

For right now Isaac, just reaching the end of his junior year at high school, mainly just wants to have fun, with his friends. "I want to have fun with my friends this year and next year but I don't want to be losing my focus for school, I want to maintain my grades but I want to have fun," Isaac confirmed.

Isaac is very prepared for next year, "I've already taken A.P. History, and that was not easy so that has really prepared me for next year when I'm going to take more A.P. classes and college classes. I had to right a lot of essays and stuff like that," Isaac stated.

Not only should juniors be thinking about what colleges they want to go to, they should also be planning college visits. Majority of students go on a numerous amount of visits. Isaac himself has had three visits already. He has been to; Kirkwood Community College, University of Iowa, and Dordt University. "My favorite college I have visited was Dordt University," Isaac said (Dordt University is in northwestern Iowa, very close to the Iowa and South Dakota border).

Many students don't know what they want to do for their senior year, some college juniors don't even know what they want to do, but Isaac does. "I'm seriously looking into majoring in engineering, but I'm not sure what kind of engineering yet," Isaac told. Isaac also really likes to do internships this summer or maybe even next year school year.

Every student should set goals for them selves at the beginning of each year and try to reach those goals. Many seniors come down with a little sickness called, "senioritis" but some can overcome it and maintain their strong work habits. Isaac plans on doing just that. "I want to have fun my senior year, but I also am going to keep working hard that I need to do good in school and maintain my G.P.A.," Isaac said with assurance.

Not only is Isaac prepared for his senior year he's going in with confidence. His confidence comes from all of his extra work that he has done since the beginning of this year. Not only by taking extra A.P. classes but by going to the limit of his ability.

need to graduate.

He is ready for his senior year. But of course he is ready for next year, he's not going to stop his laurels. Isaac wants to enjoy his last year with all of his friends, and think that he got in four years of high school.

But there is more to come. Isaac just have fun next year, he's going to do apply for a lot of scholarships, Isaac stated.

With all of his hard work, Isaac probably will.



uture.....

Ready for big steps a year early

By: Sam Kiburz (Staff Writer)

High school is a time to discover who you are and who you are going to be. High school is a time to make life-changing decisions that could affect you forever. It is a time to enjoy the present and look forward to the future. The future could mean anything, from going to college and becoming rich to enlisting into the army and fighting for your country, but for senior Casey Fangmann the future is Iowa State.

In the fall of 2008 Casey will be heading off to college to major in engineering, and begin his future and the rest of his life as an adult. The step from high school to college is nowhere near small, it is more of a leap than anything, but Casey is ready to make the leap and begin a new college life. But just because you are ready, it doesn't mean you're high school memories of fun and games are gone. There are still the great football games and friends to come. "I am excited to meet new people and become successful," explained Casey.

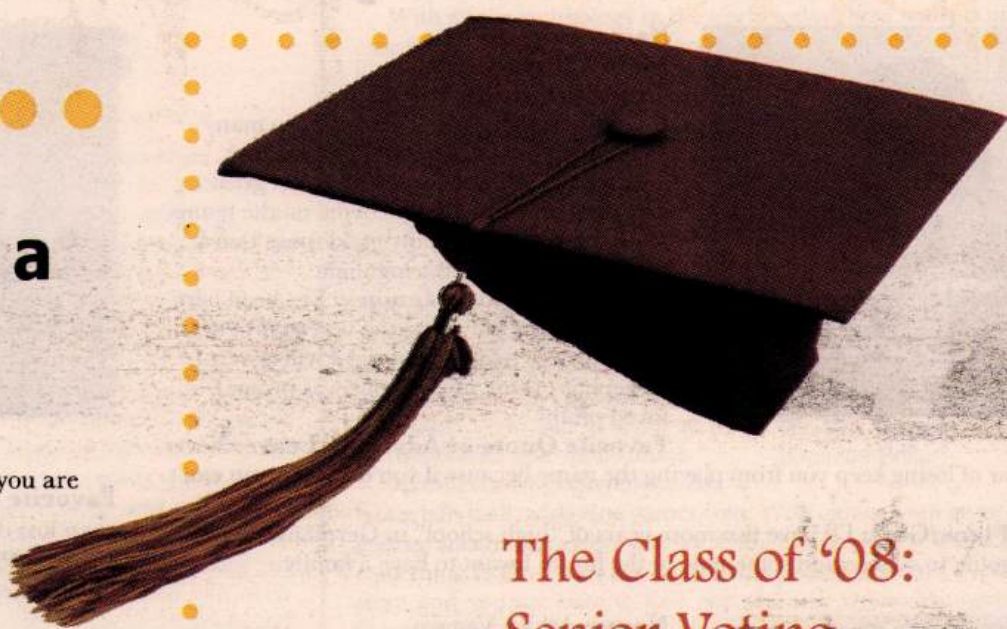
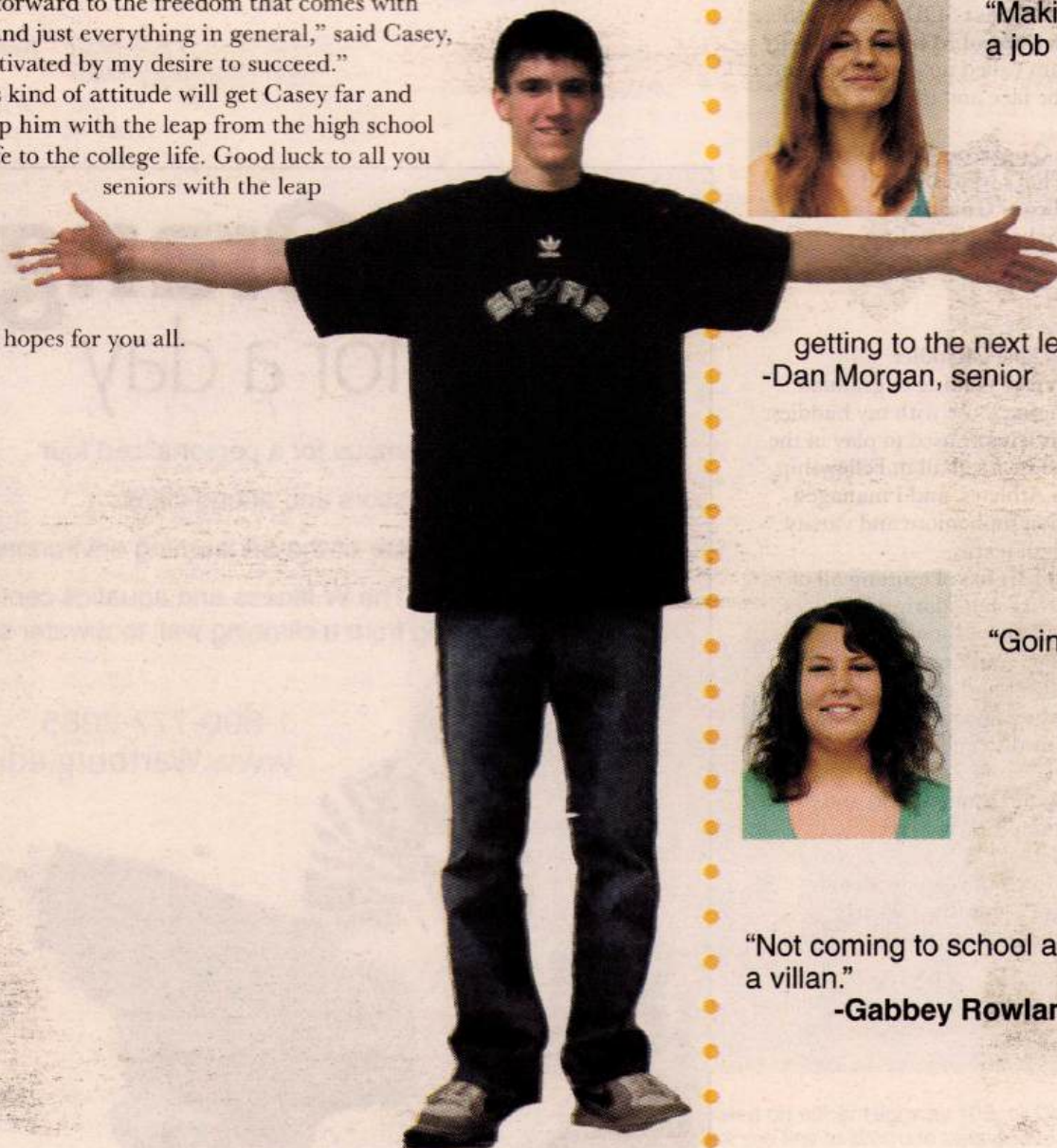
Even though Casey may be heading off to college and leaving his hometown Marion behind, it doesn't mean he will be forgotten. "I want to be remembered as number one," said Casey, "My biggest high school moment is getting Val Victorian and medaling in a JV golf meet."

Casey will be remembered greatly among many students here at Marion and will never be forgotten but Casey won't forget Marion either. "If I could re-experience any moment it would be all the football games and full-out body painting for the girl's state basketball game." But high school is much more than just sports and games; it is also a learning experience. "My most memorable teacher is probably Mr. Wikert, just because he scared me for all four years of high school," explained Casey, "but Mr. Raymond's psychology class was probably my favorite because Mr. Raymond is hilarious."

Casey's high school journey is coming to an end and now must move on to his next journey, college. "The hardest adjustment [from high school to college] is probably the responsibility." But there's much more to college than just classes and studying. "I'm looking forward to the freedom that comes with college and just everything in general," said Casey, "I'm motivated by my desire to succeed."

This kind of attitude will get Casey far and help him with the leap from the high school life to the college life. Good luck to all you seniors with the leap

ahead, there are high hopes for you all.



The Class of '08: Senior Voting

Class Motto:

"There's a big world out there. Bigger than prom, bigger than high school, and it won't matter if you were the prom queen or the quarterback of the football team or the biggest nerd. Find out who you are and try not to be afraid of it." - Anonymous

Number of Graduates: 143

Class Flower: Tulip

Class Colors: Silver and Ruby Red

Looking Ahead

"Summer, and the gifts."
- Ryan Clark, senior



"Making it to a four year college and getting a job and a wonderful, wonderful life."
-Hannah Clendenen, senior



"Not dealing with stupid people and getting to the next level."
-Dan Morgan, senior



"Going to college and meeting new people."
-Sam Houseman, senior



"Not coming to school and just chilling like a villan."
-Gabbey Rowland, senior



The end is finally here!



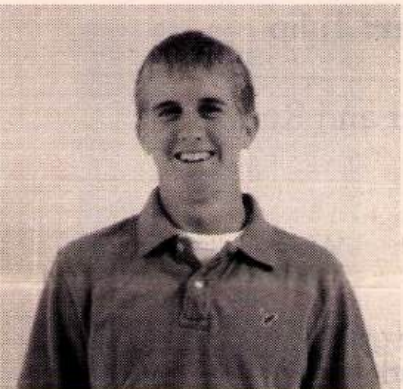
Name: Svenja Otto
Main Activity: Tennis
Other Activities: Volleyball
Season Highlights: There were so many [highlights] that it is hard to pick one out. The whole volleyball experience was great and right now I really love being on the tennis team. I have had so many good times that I can't pick out a specific highlight.
Best High School Memory: I've been here only for a year but it was the best year of my life. I have so many memories I will never forget but I think my best one was prom. I loved prom!
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Never

let the fear of losing keep you from playing the game because if you don't try, you can't win.

Future Plans/Goal: I'll have two more years of "high school" in Germany, then I plan on going to college and some time in the future I want to have a family.



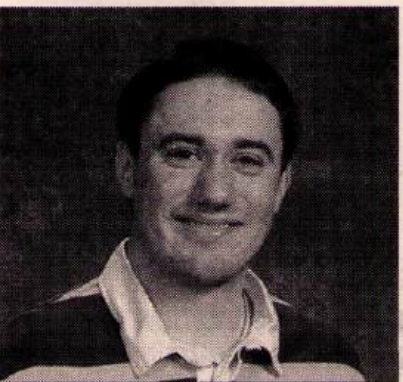
Name: Ashley Vangen
Main Activity: Tennis
Other Activities: Speech, SODA, Art Club, Science Club
Season Highlights: Playing tennis and going to two proms
Best High School Memory: When Mrs. Shultz said, "That's what she said."
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Dance as though no one is watching, Love as though you've never been hurt, sing as though no one can hear you.
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Kirkwood first year then possibly go to Iowa State for Graphic Design.



Name: Ben Cranny
Main Activity: Golf
Other Activities: NHS, FBLA, Slowpitch softball
Season Highlights: Winning three tournaments as a team, shooting 310 at Monticello.
Best High School Memory: State golf tournaments, football games, Joe's house, hanging out with friends, spring break trip to Cancun, team dinners at Buffalo Wild Wings.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Make good choices." -Dan Cranny
Future Plans/Goal: Go to the University of Iowa and major in business.



Name: Kate Marshall
Main Activity: Take Charge
Other Activities: SODA, ATOMS
Best High School Memory: When Mrs. Putnam called up Zach Putnam for pie in the face and tripping in the hallways.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "That's what she said."
Future Plans/Goal in Life: College and Grad School, Journalism



Name: Michael Chandler
Main Activity: Waiting to graduate and just hanging loose with my buddies.
Other Activities: I used to play in the band, I played basketball in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and I managed for the Marion sophomore and varsity boys basketball teams.
Season Highlights: Draining all of those half-court shots during practices, doing the half-court shooting contest at the road games and draining it at West Delaware after I had gone 0 for 4 at that same place the previous year, when Jon

Hannah cashed 3 and Tope stole the next inbound and scored to give us the lead at DeWitt. We didn't win that game though.

Best High School Memory: The band/choir trip to Disney World and St. Augustine Beach, getting to share the glory of winning the WaMaC title by helping to cut down the net after we beat DeWitt Central.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "A man is free not when he can do what he wants but when he want to do what he ought." -Matthew Henry

Future Plans/Goal: I plan on going to Kirkwood and then transferring to a small private Christian college.



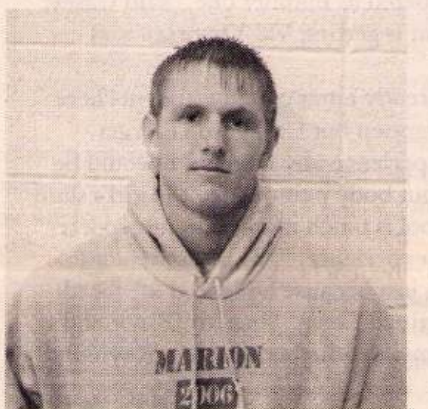
Name: Bekah Rogers
Main Activity: Art
Other Activities: Music
Season Highlights: Having four million snow days and not having to make any of them up.
Best High School Memory: Probably when Thorton and Thilges were gonna have pizza with a couple of students for lunch and I had to call and place the order so I had someone dial for me and they dialed the office and I had no idea what and they dialed the office and I had no idea what to say

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: It's better to be hated for who you are than loved for who you're not.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Mostly to follow my heart and be happy. Probably go to college and get me an education!



Name: Shanaya Waterman
Main Activity: Nothing
Other Activities: Nothing
Season Highlights: Nothing : (
Best High School Memory: Getting water spilt all over the floor in the foods room and Ian Miller slipped and I did after him.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Make sure your clothes are well put together.
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Kirkwood to either be a Vet Tech or a Graphic Designer.



Name: Michael D'Hooge
Main Activity: Football, Track, Lifting
Other Activities: FBLA, SODA
Season Highlights: Going to state in the 200 and 400 opens and the 4x400, being all state in football, Drake
Best High School Memory: Going to Florida and becoming an All-American, having two track record 4x400 and open 200, hanging out with friends, fun times at Delhi
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Set your goals; then eliminate everything in your life that keeps you from attaining that goal.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Going to Iowa to play football and study business.

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Name: Morgan Steiert
Main Activity: Nothing
Best High School Memory: When Ms Margretz got pied
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live life to the fullest and let nobody stand in your way of fulfilling your dreams
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Kirkwood for two years then transfer to University of Iowa and get my doctoral degree and become a clinical psychologist



Name: Courtney Bitner
Main Activity: Being Courtney..
Other Activities: Nothing...I'm lame like that.
Season Highlights: Money math sitting with Sarah Morris, Ali Holub, Chelsea Cimaglia, and Trisha McNulty
Best High School Memory: The first day I met Sandy Thielking and she told me, "I can see us hanging out a lot!" Money math with all of the above (season highlights)! Losing lots of money.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Don't let yourself ever get bored. Live life to the fullest!
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Kirkwood for 2 years and get my AA in early childhood education. Then go to UNI to further in special education.



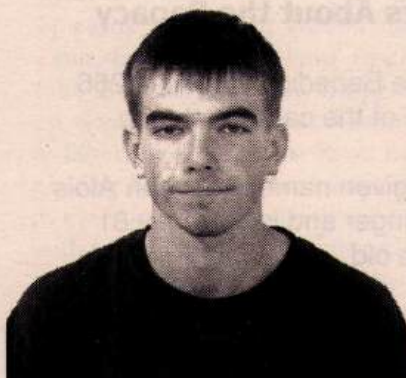
Name: Jessi Cook
Main Activity: -
Other Activities: Hanging out with my friends and my boyfriend.
Season Highlights: Going to football games.
Best High School Memory: All the dances and meeting my best friends and my boyfriend (Tony Begley!).
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live everyday like it's your last.
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Going to Kirkwood and working.



Name: Elizabeth Schenk
Main Activity: None
Other Activities: None
Season Highlights: None
Best High School Memory: When Kristin wanted to get kicked out of school so she lit a cigarette in the hallway of the school and had to put it out in the drinking fountain. (She only got suspended.)
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Dream Big.
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Kirkwood, graduating from college.



Name: Lauren Irish
Main Activity: Chillin'
Other Activities: Chillin' some more
Season Highlights: Senior skip night at Maggie's
Best High School Memory: When Kristi, Brittney and I walked in the rain with one umbrella to kidnap Jacqueline.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Don't worry be HAPPY!
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Going to Kirkwood and moving into an apartment with Nichole G. June 1st.



Name: Zach Sindelar
Main Activity: Brennan, beating the Riz in Halo 3, listening to Joe cry.
Other Activities: ...Living?
Season Highlights: Cheering on my team from the stands ('cause Owen is better.)
Best High School Memory: Friday night football!! Brennan's every Friday night, puking at Brennan's at one in the morning, G-ballin'-then learning a lesson, being with Brittney (movies or walks), New Year's Parties with Big Dad, Halo parties at Brennan's and Riley's, Mr. Semler, team breakfast and dinner (BK and B-Dubs), tailgating football, leading the terrible student section in basketball, The

Play Station, State Basketball, Adventureland trip and the Nike Store, prank calls, SexyBack, Youtube, Playin' ball.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Never let the fear of losing keep you from playing the game because if you don't try, you can't win.

Future Plans/Goal: To go to UNI and start a family.



Name: Rachel A. Smith
Main Activity: Hanging out with friends.
Other Activities: Working at Tomaso's and the Indian Creek Country Club. Running and walking my puppy!
Season Highlights: Going to football games and doing the most random things after!
Best High School Memory: Going on Adventures in the Dina Ride, going boating with Chels and Jac, getting in trouble then sneaking up to Jac's window, going down the stairs in clothes baskets and breaking them all with Chels, having sleepovers on the trampoline with Ali and waking up soaked, working with BFF, Chels, going to haunted houses every year. going to North Carolina with Kyle, bonfire at Ryan Clark's sophomore year! Drivers Ed when Ali went the wrong way on a one way and Chelsea stopped at a green light.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Believe in yourself an you will go far... High School goes way too fast to worry about the small things and have fun and be yourself!"
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Kirkwood for business or social work and hopefully transfer to Mount Mercy.



Name: Kyle Falco
Main Activity: Hanging out with friends
Other Activities: Disc Golf, Soccer, Halo 3, GTA4
Season Highlights: -
Best High School Memory: Watching Scott, Cooper, Travis, and Tyler getting caught on the bleachers during a flood, Cooper was singing Kumbyay and wanted to kiss the firefighter. Staying up really late and starting fires in Tyler's garage with a lot of gasoline. And getting locked in Tyler's closet spray painting. Riding my moped to school! Watching Scott Carter swat kick in Tyler's front door. Shooting potato launcher across the golf course.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Rastafari is not a culture, it's a reality.
Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Kirkwood!



Name: Cameron Clinton
Main Activity: Coming to school
Other Activities: Working at HyVee
Season Highlights: BT House
Best High School Memory: Building the BT house and looking at it now realizing that we did that.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Take what you get and make the most of it.
Future Plans/Goal: Have a family and have a very good job.

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Recent steroid scandals taint baseball

Despite constant rumors about MLB players doping, a surprising rise in ballpark revenue and popularity is happening.

By: Jordan Garretson
[Co-Executive Editor]

As ballparks around the country are finally filled up to watch actual baseball games, the marathon of what seemed to be a never-ending steroid discussion has finally slowed down. But make no mistake about it, the dark cloud continues to hang around the game. Or does it really? How does the steroid scandal affect the way the fans view the game and its players?

Based upon looking solely at the numbers, it doesn't appear that the game has taken quite as big of a hit as you might have thought. Last year the league brought in a record \$6 billion in revenue. This compares to just \$1.3 billion in 1995, more than a half decade before the steroids scandal began to surface into the spotlight. And even as recently as 2003, the year of the raid on BALCO, which has proved to be one of the main spark plugs behind the steroid controversy, it was just \$3.9 billion. Joe Morgan, hall of fame 2nd baseman and current color commentator for ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball, weighs in on the is-

sue with strong opinions.

"Steroids became a bigger issue every year, but attendance keeps going up," Morgan said in January at the 31st annual Old Dominion University baseball clinic. "What that tells you is that it's not as big of an issue with the fans as some people think it should be." Morgan thinks that the attention that baseball gets as opposed to other sports is sometimes unwarranted and even unfair. "Steroids have been more prevalent in football than baseball," Morgan explained, "but the spotlight is always directed at baseball."

"It doesn't matter if they've taken steroids in my point of view. As long as they fess up to taking steroids after they've been convicted...I have more respect for Jason Giambi and Andy Pettite than I ever have. I view them the same as other players, but lose my respect because of them cheating."

-Patrick Lala, senior

Despite the increased revenues and attendances around the majors, the fans aren't naive about the use of steroids in baseball, either. According to a New York Times poll, seven in 10 fans think that at least a quarter of MLB players use steroids to improve their performance. The poll also says that one out of every three fans believe at least half of major league players use performance-enhancing drugs. Nonetheless, it is expected that this year's attendance numbers will surpass last year's record total of 79.5 million fans.

So how does the issue affect the

young fans today? Marion seniors as well as baseball players and fans, B.J. Fish and Patrick Lala, both weighed in on the issue. They shared very similar thoughts.

"I have watched less baseball than I ever have since the scandal has started, but I don't think it's due to steroids in baseball. I still love the game and I always will. I'll always respect the game too, no matter how many pills or syringes enter the game," Patrick offered regarding his view of baseball. BJ essentially agreed, saying, "It has no affected my fandom at all, if you're a true baseball fan you can look past it and see the game as it is." However their opinions on the players differed slightly.

"It doesn't really matter if they've taken steroids in my point of view. As long as they fess up to taking steroids after they've been convicted. For example, I have more respect for Jason Giambi and Andy Pettite than I ever have," Patrick explained. "I view [the players that took steroids] the same as other players, but lose my respect because of cheating," BJ said.

So while some players may make and continue to make questionable decisions regarding steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs, it seems the fans will keep coming. If not for anything but just the love of the game, as a line from *Field of Dreams* once said, "They will come, Ray. They will most definitely come."

Have all the rumors of steroids changed your opinion of professional sports players?



"The rumors of many pro athletes have changed my opinion, because the use of steroids is cheating. I respect the athletes less if I find out that they have used steroids."

-Maggie Murphy, sophomore



"All of the steroid rumors haven't changed my opinion of the athletes themselves. I think very highly of Jason Giambi for being honest about the steroid use."

-Betsy Ryan, junior



"The steroid rumors haven't changed my opinion of pro athletes because these players are still amazing athletes. Not the average person can hit a 95 mph fastball thrown at them or dunk on a person that's 7 ft. tall. They're still really good athletes."

-James Solder, junior

Generation Violent

By: Tabitha Scott
[Feature Editor]

As many may be able to see, the increase in violence among young kids has gone up drastically. All anyone has to do anymore is turn on the news and they hear about a third grade class plotting to kill their teacher, or a couple seven year olds running around with pocket knives and pointing them at other people. Hearing this can be shocking, and it causes many people to wonder why America's youth have become this way. The answer to that can be found in a few different things.

The first is simple: video games. Although many teenagers will deny it, the violence in videogames has reached high levels, from Call Of Duty, Halo, and the new Grand Theft Auto 4. These games promote nothing but violence, and killing others for fun. With all the new gaming systems coming out, younger kids can't wait to get their hands on them and start playing all of them. The problem with this is they think it's not that bad and that it's okay to do since their parents allow them to play whatever game they want. As teens, it's easy to know the difference of videogames and reality, but the younger the kids are, the less they really know.

Another factor that plays into violence among kids is the influences they have in their lives. It can be par-

ents, grandparents, or older siblings. If it's older siblings, they tend to pick up traits and learn from them so they can be just like that older sibling. If a young child hears their older brother or sister say something mean or see them being aggressive or violent, they are going to do the exact same thing. The same goes with watching their parents. The younger a child is, the more room they have for learning and growing. So what a child may learn at that age will form them into who they become as they get older.

With all of these opportunities for kids to see violence, they also see it on the news with the ongoing war in Iraq. It's broadcasted on television, on the radio, and on the internet. Violence is in everything, and the youngest generation in America has to grow up in all of it. With making it all so public, a person of any age can see these things and use them as examples on how to act.

With that given, it makes perfect sense for a child to act violently. All they need is to be around it for a day, and they will do exactly what they see. The only way to change this is basically up to what a parent allows their child to be around it. They can decide how much they want their child to be around. But in this time period, with everything being acceptable more and more each day, that is easier said than done.

Pope Benedict visits United States

By: Chelsey Banas
[Co-Executive Editor]

Recently Pope Benedict XVI has made his way to the United States but many people don't know what the Pope actually does. For instance did you know that the word Pope comes from the Greek word "papas" meaning father. Therefore leading to the Pope being the head or "father" of the Catholic church. The Pope is the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church as well as the head of Vatican City. Pope Benedict (the 256th pope) was elected on April 19th, 2005 and will remain the pope till his death.

Although the Pope is very spiritual it could have never been assumed that he was forced to be apart of the Nazi party during WWII while he was growing up. Leading to the perception that he would be a very strict enforcer, looked at as "God's rottweiler," but instead has turned out to be very soft and laid back. He's very laid back which might have to do with him being the oldest cardinal to become Pope at 78, since Clement XII in 1730.

What exactly was the Pope doing here in the United States then and why does this all matter? As leader of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope mostly met with Catholics while in the United States. He held masses in stadiums such as the Yankee Stadium. Pope Benedict XVI also held a mass when he visited ground zero, as well as meeting with the president and his family at the White House. He met

with thousand of young Catholics in hope of guiding them the right way.

Not only was the Pope here for Catholic masses, he spent his 81st birthday at the White House. President George W. Bush had quite a surprise waiting for Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict was greeted with over 9,000 excited guests and a 21-gun salute. The Pope even got an emotional welcome from the President himself.

Although the Pope visiting America might not affect you first hand it is definitely something to be aware of. Especially because over 61,000,000 Americans are baptized Catholic in the United States.

Facts About the Papacy

-Pope Benedict XVI is the 256 pope of the catholic church.

-His given name is Joseph Alois Ratzinger and is currently 81 years old.

-The pope lives in Vatican City, which is a city state completely surrounded by the city of Rome, Italy.

-The pope is elected by a college of Cardinals (high ranking church leaders) and remains in this position until death or resignation.

Ready for the future, sad to leave the past

By: Jordan Garretson
(Co-Executive Editor)

Some seniors miss high school more than they're looking forward to college. And for some it's the complete opposite and they can't wait to get out of their high school. However, for Tabitha Scott, her



Tabitha Scott,
senior

feelings strike the perfect balance and rest right in between the two.

For example, Tabitha definitely has a couple things she's NOT going to miss about high school, such as "Getting things thrown at me in Journalism and getting

up so early," in her words. At the same time, of course, she has things she will miss about Marion. "I'm going to miss the people that I got to see everyday and having a routine that I was used to and comfortable with," Tabitha stated.

As sad as it sounds, Tabitha will indeed have a lot of people to miss, having been involved in so many activities, such as football and basketball cheerleading, soccer, FCA, journalism, and NHS just to name a few. Journalism was able to provide Tabitha with many fun moments that she will be able to look back on and cherish. "My best high school memory was any day in journal!" Tabitha exclaimed. Most end up feeling as if the journalism class was a fam-

ily of sorts, and for Tabitha it's no different. "My favorite part of Journalism would be how close we all are," she explained.

But fortunately it's not all just sad good-byes for Tabitha, who won't be too far from home in the fall when she will be attending the University of Iowa, which she is very excited about. "I'm looking forward to meeting new people and moving on with life," Tabitha said.

Nonetheless, Tabitha will have to adjust to a new set of surroundings just like the rest of the graduating seniors. The new scenery of the Iowa Campus and the rest of Iowa City will be the first time she's had such a change since Kindergarten, when she made the short but still signifi-

cant move from Cedar Rapids to Marion. From there she has pursued her education under the Marion Independent School District (starting at Emerson Elementary) ever since then, and all the way up until her graduation here at Marion High School.

If things go as Tabitha plans for them to, graduation might not turn out to be the last time she ever steps foot in a school. "I plan on majoring in elementary education, I work well with kids and I like being around them, they're fun to be around," Tabitha explained. Until then we congratulate Tabitha on a great four years at MHS and wish her good luck with furthering her education next year at Iowa.

Excelling leadership

By: Brittney Railsback [Yearbook Editor]

Rachel Smith is our student body president, NHS officer, editor of The Quill, and is active within the cross country and track teams as reigning team captain. It is not hard to see that Rachel would like to be remembered as a leader.

From her first semester at MHS she was destined for success, starting with being able to be a part of the Cross Country State Championship team and advancing her career to place 6th individually her junior



Rachel N.
Smith, senior

season. And though she is all about athletics, she loves being with her friends, too. "I loved senior prom! It was so good to be with all my friends one last time!" commented Rachel.

In the classroom, Rachel undoubtedly excels. She plans to attend Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, where she plans to major in pre-med, but has played with the idea of taking on journalism or teaching as her career. With these future aspirations Rachel has been able to set goals for herself and it has done her well. For her time at MHS, she's been at the top of her class and with all this hard work has even been given an honor of speaking at the 2008 graduation ceremony.

"Journalism is probably one

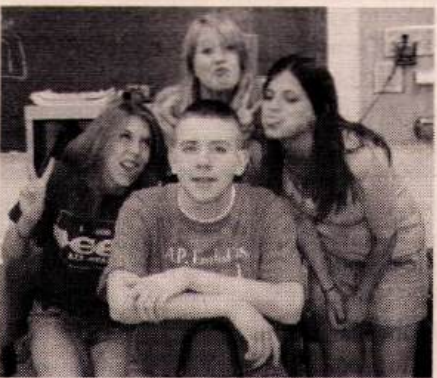
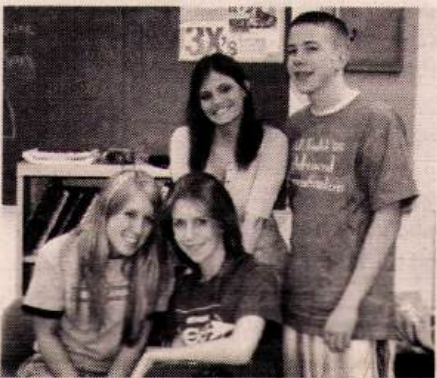
of the funniest classes I took in high school. It was great when we finally got the 2006-2007 yearbook so the boys could stop chanting, 'we want yearbooks' at the football games," laughed Rachel. With the yearbook, she loves designing everything and working with the Journalism class to get their opinions on what would best fit our student body.

Thinking back on the year in Journalism, Rachel fondly remembers pig soccer and cat baseball, cooking bacon, and Pat Tiernan reading girl magazines, but sneaking out to get Tropi with Nicole Pratt, Tabitha Scott, and Pat (his first time) and having Pat freak out when Jordan Garretson called.

But with all this fun, there is one thing that has kept Rachel motivated, she doesn't like disappointing people. Which could explain while at yearbook camp, she banged on tables and cheered along with everyone else. "It was fun being loud and crazy for the day," shared Rachel.

She has proved to be a very charismatic and positive person. These traits have set her apart and put her in a very good position heading into college.

Rachel has been a great friend, student, leader, athlete, and journalist while here at Marion. She has stuck by her friends and her decisions and has put forth a lot of effort in athletics and academics for the past four years at Marion High.



Mr. Vox moves on

By: Rachel N. Smith
(Yearbook Editor)

Everyone has a different name for Jordan Garretson. To the employees of The Play Station, he's known as GKO. The ladies call him Garebear. And to 80% of the population of MHS he's known as Gary. Along with having the talent of collecting an assortment of over 60 different nicknames, Jordan also has an enormous gift for writing.

Since his sophomore year, Jordan has been writing very thoughtful and entertaining stories for the Vox. Many readers enjoy Jordan's stories and see that he is a very talented writer. "Whatever topic [Jordan] writes about, he immerses himself in that topic to provide the best and most entertaining story possible," recalls Mrs. Eicher of Jordan's writing. Jordan has recognized his talent and plans on refining it at the University of Iowa next year where he will major in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Jordan has always had an interest for writing. When asked why he joined journalism, Jordan responded, "I wanted to take a step forward and see how much I enjoyed it, because writing was an interest of mine. It's definitely paid off!" Making the decision to become a member of the journalism class has helped Jordan discover what his passion in life is. "[Journalism] has allowed me to become more versatile as a writer because I've gotten the

chance to cover a wide variety of topics." Jordan has truly covered a large amount of different topics in the last three years. He has written stories over world events, student life, and sporting events.

Jordan covers almost all the different genres of writing, but his true passion lies with sports. Jordan loves to cover any and all sports events, whether it's a snippet covering the outcome of a team's last game, or an interview with an all-star athlete.

"My passion for sports inspires me. I try my best to share my passion for this with other people through my writing," explains Jordan. It is Jordan's passion that makes his stories jump off the pages of the Vox and make them so entertaining to the readers that they are always begging for more.

Whether he's writing about sports, news, or school, Jordan's stories definitely make an impact on their readers. For the past three years, Jordan's passion for writing has been very evident in the Vox. There's no doubt that his future in the world of Journalism and Mass Communications will be a bright and successful one. Thank you Jordan for all of your years of entertainment, we all wish you good luck in the years to come.



Jordan
Garretson,
senior

Friendships build successful future to Iowa State

By: Tabitha Scott
(Feature Editor)

The last four years have quickly come and gone. Now all that's left are memories, and for one senior here at Marion, there seems to be many. Senior Brittney Railsback has had the opportunity to be involved in much more than many could



Brittney
Railsback, senior

have managed, and she loved every minute of it all. "Being involved in so many different things and meeting so many people was the best part of high school," shares Brittney. And when she says many things,

she isn't lying. Brittney is active in basketball and competition cheerleading, she's a yearbook editor in journalism, the vice-president of her class, member of National Honor Society, and a part of many other MHS organizations.

Looking back, there wasn't much that Brittney didn't like about Marion. "I think that the worst part about high school would be how people assume that if your friends do something, you automatically do it too," says Brittney, "besides the people that think like that, high school was a great experience!" During her high school experience, Brittney has set her goals high and accomplished a lot. In the Journalism room, she's one of two editors to the Quill,

Marion's yearbook. "My favorite part about being editor is getting the final say in everything and making Rachel mad," jokes Brittney, "but when it comes down to just being in Journalism, I love the closeness we have, and the friendships I've made over the years."

Friendships. That's probably the hardest thing about leaving high school. Knowing all these people for so long and then just not being able to see them anymore.

"I'll miss the crazy journo days in the classroom, and causing havoc with all my friends the most," says Brittney, "but I think about where I'll be in five or ten years, and I know that everything I've gone through and the people I've met in high

school will make me more successful in my future."

Brittney plans on attending Iowa State University in the fall, where she is going to major in Journalism and Mass Communications, and Political Science. When asked about being remembered after graduation, Brittney smiled and said, "I'm sure I'm always going to be remembered for giving my opinion, even when it wasn't wanted." And with that, Brittney leaves with this last piece of advice, "Even though people may not agree with what you choose, it's your choice, be confident. Give whatever you do your all, be positive, outgoing, and laugh until you cry- live everyday like it's your last!"

Mr. Bates gives his own goodbye to MHS

After teaching for over 37 years, one of Marion's most well-known teachers says goodbye and moves on to his retirement.

By: Jim Bates [MHS English Teacher]

At end of my first year of teaching, I was sitting in the auditorium during a teacher recognition program as the district honored its teachers. A few of the veteran teachers were getting their 30 or 35 year awards, and I was amazed that anyone could last that long. I can remember wondering if they still like kids and enjoyed teaching after so many years. Now looking back after 37 years, I see how it happens, and I am astonished at how fast those years flew by. Yes, I still enjoy kids, and I still enjoy teaching. In my resignation letter to the superintendent and board of education, I wrote...

"I have had 37 wonderful years with this district. When I was hired as a first year teacher, the students, faculty, and administration treated me so well. And I can still say that today...I am proud to have been part of the MISD teaching family since 1971. Over the years, I have worked with great board members and administrators, taught with exceptional teachers, had class after class of terrific students, and worked with numerous talented athletes. I never went into education to become rich, but teaching at Marion High School has given me more than I could have ever wanted. The memories I have of those past 37 years will stay with me forever...Wherever I end up and whatever I end up doing, my heart will always be at Marion High School."

"Looking back after 37 years, I see how it happens, and I am astonished at how fast those years flew by."

-Mr. Bates

Hired by Lowell Morgan to teach sophomore writing in a six-period day, I usually taught five classes of sophomore, 28-30 students in each class. The first year is very crucial to a beginning teacher, and those kids were so good to me. I KNOW I learned more than they did that year. I graduated from UNI in 1971 with a BA in English Education and a minor in Art, and then in 1977, I received my Masters Degree from Truman State University. During my senior year at UNI, I signed a contract with the Marion Independent School District and have taught here ever since. This will be my 37th and final year of teaching. During those years, I've taught 9th through 12th grades, mainly writing and literature. I have always had all the sophomores for the writing & literature section of their year. There is something special about sophomores; they're young and enthusiastic, but just becoming adults. By the way, I taught *To Kill A Mockingbird* every year, and I still love it just as much as I did the first time I read it when I was a sophomore. I also coached football and wrestling until 1996. I'm the "lame duck" National Honor Society Advisor and English Department Chair.

As I mentioned previously, when I was hired as an English teacher, I had no extra-curricular assignments, a fact that seems almost unfathomable today, but MISD was looking for someone to teach sophomores to write. I was glad to do it. After a couple of years, I was offered the position of wrestling coach, along with my classroom assignment, of course. The next year, a coaching position opened up in

football. This was a great opportunity; I love football. And so my career as English teacher who also happened to coach football and wrestling was a reality. What I soon discovered was that some of my colleagues looked at me differently; a few actually stopped talking to me. It was as if I had gone over to the Darkside. Actually, I was very proud of being a coach, but, sadly, that title of Coach often put up a wall between me and some teachers who don't coach (especially ones I work with in the summer writing projects). When one of my colleagues learned that I had been a coach, he stated, "Tell me it ain't so!" which was the reason I wrote the following poem:

Ex-Coach Bates

The memories of take-downs and reversals
trap blocking and linebacker blitzes
still linger like a favorite old tune
that I catch myself whistling
on long walks alone.

My down-time refuge is now Panera Bread,
a good cup of hazelnut coffee
squeezed between *English Journal*
and *Golf* magazine.

But I'll tell you this:
It was always about love,
of poets and writers...
words creating brilliant images and dreams
and about wrestlers and receivers, too,
perfect passes,
crucial pins...
Yet most of all,
it was about connecting with the kid
on or off the field.

One course that I taught from 1974 to 1996 was Creative Writing. I think it was one of my favorite classes because it gave me an opportunity to work with students one-on-one, where they were writing about topics of their choice and using a variety of genres. I learned to trust the students, and I learned to trust the process, which definitely made my principals nervous because my students could be off working in the computer lab, in the library, in the student lounge, or sitting in my room. Many fantastic pieces of writing came out of those seniors. And it was from the Creative Writing classes that our literary magazine, *Creative Ink*, was born. It began as *Creative Writing, Inc.*, then changed to *The Wooden Indian*, and finally to *Creative Ink*, the outstanding literary magazine that Mr. Ferguson has perfected. I think it was because of Creative Writing that I painted these words on my wall in room 26...

"Words are just words until the writer gives them life."
accompanying a drawing of a hand holding a pen, created by John Foster.

The other course that gave me an opportunity to work



Mr. Bates has been teaching at Marion for 37 years, and has decided to make this year his last and retire.

with students in different format was Field Biology. Dick Sloan and I worked it out so we could team-teach the course, giving students credit in science and English. Mr. Sloan began the class in 1978, and then we got together in 1990 to 2001. During those 11 years, our students learned more about their environment, their community, and themselves through field work, lab work, and writing. I think that's why the following poem (and tree) also ended up on my wall...

We work so hard
to have it all...
sometimes failing to see
what we're doing,
where we're headed,
and why we've become
aliens in our own world.
Somewhere
in the cycle
of things,
there does exist
a way to live
in the shade
of trees...
and not just
consume them.

I was once asked what changes I would make in education if I could, and I think there are three main things I would do if I had the power: First, I'd mandate that writing classes have 15-18 students per class. If the class is too small or too big, you don't get as much done. Second, I'd supply laptops to each student, without Internet access. Students need to learn to compose at the keyboard, but the Internet is a distraction and a temptation to "borrow" from others, instead of wrestle with the challenge of composing. And third, I'd require that all classrooms be twice the size, with both desks and tables, a reliable copy machine, and a top-of-the-line printer, preferably color. Maybe someday I'll read in the paper that you got those things.

Like I said before, teaching at Marion High School has given me more than I could have ever wanted, and the memories I have of those past 37 years will stay with me forever. So wherever I end up and whatever I end up doing, my heart will always be at Marion High School.

A timeline and history of Mr. Bates

Mr. Bates graduated from UNI in 1971.

In that same year, he started teaching at Marion High School.

In 1974, Mr. Bates started coaching wrestling.

The very next year, 1975, he started coaching football.

In 1983, Mr. Bates started the writing group Creative Ink.

Mr. Bates will retire at the end of the 2007-'08 school year.

In 1990, Mr. Bates took over the Joseph Biggs chapter of the National Honor Society.

Going out strong; A.D. leaves MHS for family

Goettsch retires to seek warmer climate and spend time with family

By: Tabitha Scott [Features Editor]

As many of you may know, Hans Goettsch, the Athletic Director here at Marion High School, has decided to leave the Marion district and retire. Mr. Goettsch has been the Athletic Director at Marion for the last four years. His decision to leave was primarily based on his readiness to retire. When asked about his future plans and retirement, Mr. Goettsch simply stated, "I don't know what I'm going to do. I have children in different places and I'll probably go visit them a lot and travel. I'm pretty much going to do whatever I want."

Looking back, Mr. Goettsch has been working as an Athletic Director and as a teacher for almost thirty years in different places. He taught and coached at Fort Dodge for twenty years. He

coached tennis, golf, wrestling, and track. He also coached cross-country, in which he earned state titles in as the head coach. After leaving there, he moved to Charles City for four years as an Athletic Director, and then came here to the Marion School District.

When Mr. Goettsch first became an AD there was only five sports; football, wrestling, boy's track, boy's basketball, and baseball. Now, there are over twenty different kinds of sports for both males and females. This makes the job of an athletic director a bit more stressful. "I have all these different sports that I have to

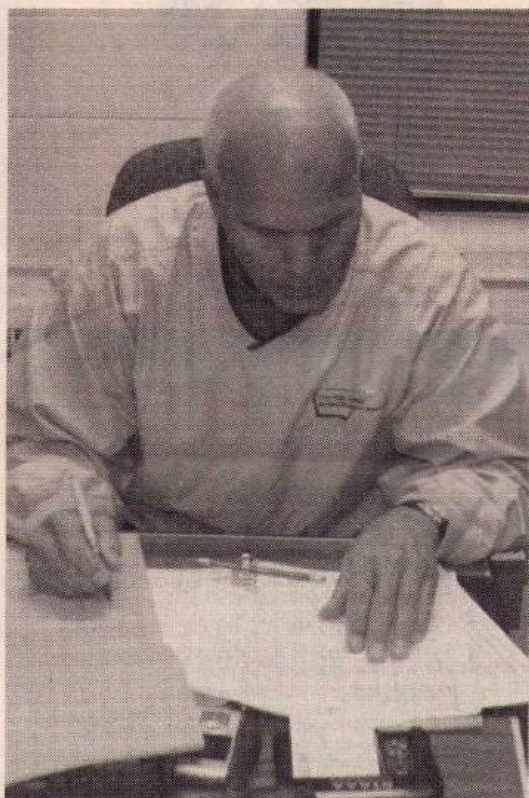
-Mr. Goettsch

organize, and then on top of those I have band and choir, and many other organizations that I have to deal with," shares Mr. Goettsch, "they can all add up to be a lot."

In Mr. Goettsch's place, Mr. Laube will be taking over as the new Athletic Director. Mr. Laube has been the boy's head basketball coach at Marion for the past nine years, and before that he was the assistant girl's basketball coach for two years. He has also been teaching for the last eleven years at MHS. "I'm going to miss coaching a lot," shares Laube, "the relationships with the players, and the everyday teaching of the game and competition."

Many may wonder, with the feelings he expressed about coaching and his teaching career, why would he decide to take a new job as an A.D. and leave everything else behind? "It was an exciting new challenge and I have strong feelings for Marion High School and its activities," says Mr. Laube. He has, and always will care about Marion and the community. "I plan to continue moving Marion in a positive direction through hardwork, unselfishness, and character," adds Laube.

As we say good-bye to Mr. Goettsch, we welcome Mr. Laube at the same time, as he will surely have some big shoes to fill. Mr. Goettsch didn't have a lot to say, but he did leave a few words, "Good luck next year Laube, it doesn't get any easier." With that, Mr. Goettsch is thanked for all he has done here at Marion, and wished the best in his retirement.



Hans Goettsch works on some documents in his office. This is Mr. Goettsch's last year at Marion High School.

Off to art school she goes

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Most graduating seniors go to either the local community college after high school or venture out and attend a state university or a private parochial school. But senior, Amanda McCann decided that she will be attending Illinois Institute of Art of Schaumburg. Schaumburg is a suburb of Chicago, the windy city.

Not only is Amanda doing something totally different than everyone else in her grade, the applying process was completely different as well. "I had to write a 250 word essay about how I could better my field of study. The application itself took me nearly 3 hours." This application took her so long because there were two pages of intense questions.

Marion High School's mission as a school is, "To prepare all students with the skills required to enter future adult roles and become effective citizens, productive workers, informed consumers, and responsible family members." Amanda feels that she will be very prepared for school next year. Amanda states, "All of the art and theater teachers have helped me a lot for my schooling next year." There are also certain classes that help students become more prepared and for Amanda those classes were; computer graphics, for the photoshop, and ceramics helping Amanda with perspective.

Amanda really enjoys taking pictures, so that is why she is majoring in, Digital Photography. She enjoys it so much that she is going to school at the end of June, and starts school in July. "I'm starting school so early because I really want to get a jump start on my major," Amanda commented.

Schaumburg to Chicago is like Marion to Cedar Rapids. Amanda will be just a few miles from the third largest city in the country. "Since my major is Digital Photography, I'll be in Chicago a lot, taking pictures of the city," Amanda said with enthusiasm. It happens to be one of her favorite cities. Along with being one of the larger cities in the country it is very culturally diverse. "I cannot wait to see and take pictures of all the different cultures that there are in Chicago, it's a melting pot, and I'm glad to be a part of that," Amanda stated.

Graduating seniors usually pick their college based on what the school can offer them for their certain major. That is certainly what senior Amanda McCann did. But on the other side some students pick their college education based on the town and the atmosphere, and if Amanda was going off those classifications than Chicago is the place to be. "I'm excited for the school but I'm also can't wait for the night life, it's going to be amazing!" Amanda states.

Marion sure has produced some talented people in the past and probably will continue to do so in the future. It's certain that she will be successful. Partly in thanks to MHS for preparing her for such a competitive field, but it is also due to Amanda's raw talent for taking pictures and artistic ability.



Amanda McCann, senior

McCarron reenacts the history

By: Sam Rinehart [Staff Writer]

Some people enjoy playing sports, singing, or sleeping, while senior Brandon McCarron is in to something totally different. Brandon enjoys being involved in Civil War reenactments.

"A typical battle scene is a lot of smoke, with loud noises loud enough to shake the ground, generals riding around on their horses and someone is hired to be Abe Lincoln," recalled Brandon. "I even change my watch from my everyday watch to a pocket clock," he explained.

Many teenagers are interested in wars, but haven't heard of war reenactments. Brandon was lucky enough to have front row seats to these events. "I was about four or five when I learned about them first. My dad's house is right across the street from the Main Square in Keokuk where they are sometimes held," Brandon remembered. His interest in war reenactments exploded from there. "We had to dress up in eighth grade and that's when I knew I really wanted to do this kind of thing," Brandon added.

Not only is the shooting and gunfire redone, but also the lifestyle

is reposed. "My favorite part is living history again, and doing everything they would, cooking over a fire, reading a pocket watch, trying to keep warm by the fire, every part is great." Brandon enthused. Brandon loves to be a part of history, but the reenactments only come around every so often. "They are held at Usher's Ferry and Keokuk, but the last one was two years ago," said Brandon.

Brandon commented on his continual involvement, "It keeps me out of trouble. If I'm at a reenactment, I'm not doing anything else." His reasoning is the best reason kids should get involved in activities they enjoy.

Civil War reenactments aren't heard about everyday. People can visit angelfire.com to learn more about reenactments and Brandon's squad. Brandon has proved that whatever your interests may be, there are always activities to suit you.



Brandon McCarron, senior

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WWW.ReadPhotography.com



Future plans for the graduating class of '08

Iowa

Floris Bannister
Joseph Classon
Ben Cranny
Michael D'Hooge
Benjamin Fish
Alex Fiala
Mary-Beth Gaines
Jordan Garretson
Curtis Hubbell
Ryan Immerfall
Shannon McCoy
Owen McGlynn
Riley Quinn
Amanda Roberts
Kathleen Rosenberger

Laura Sauer
Kyle Schau
Tabitha Scott
Alicia Spurgin
Joshua Ster
Alexandria Sturtz
Derrick VanDerMillen



Northern Iowa

Kellie Barkdoll
Sarah Caldwell
Michael Chervak
Shawn Crosser
Samantha Houseman
Matthew Jordan
Ian LeBeau
Adam Lubben
Brennan Menken

Spencer Pflughaupt
Kiley Remington
Zachary Sindelar



Mt. Mercy

Erick Bronwer
Rachel Dulles
Katelynn Edwards
Daniel Morgan
Gabrielle Kowland
Ian Ster
Kyle Thompson



Iowa State

Casey Fangmann
Brittney Railsback
Kristopher Thompson



Kirkwood

Travis Anderson
Katie Barkdoll
Courtney Bitner
Bailey Brewer
Christopher Burhite
Scott Carter
Michael Chandler
Ryan Clark
Hanna Clendenen
Cameron Clinton
Jessica Cook
Caleb Davis
Molly Ehrenberger
Margaret Eiben
Kyle Falco
Kendra Hanson
Lacie Heslop
Brooke Hingtgen
Alissa Holub
Logan Holub
Paul James
Melanie Kemmann
Patrick Lala
Ryan Logsdon
Nick Long

Trisha McNulty
Sarah Morris
Corey Nathem
Sarah Nissen
Lauren Irish
Tyler Peterson
Rebekah Rogers
Nicholas Schirmer
Rachel A. Smith
Alyssa Springer
Morgan Steiert
Ashley Vangen
Shanaya Waterman



Other

Quinnton Baughman: Coe College
Adam Beadle: Capri College
Sydney Bean: Luther College
Megan Beaty: Aurora University
Chelsea Cimaglia: Hawkeye Community College
Christopher Cole: Universal Tech. Institute
Cooper Creighton: Troy University
Broc Dabling: St. Ambrose University
Daniel Farmer: Community College in Missouri
Sandra Ferring-Larsen: Frederikssund Handelsskole
Christina Hamous: Carlson College
Jonathan Hannah: Iowa Lakes Community College
Joseph Jewell: Air Force
Bryana Jones: Dordt College
Jacqueline Kane: Undecided
Amanda McCann: Illinois Institute of Art
Shaumburg
Brandon McCarron: Undecided
Kevin Meeker: Palmer College
Aandrea Oldfield: Luther College
Kristine O'Neill: AIB
Paige Plagman: Kaplan University
Matthew Sagar: Central College
Rachel N. Smith: Simpson College
Stephen Stampka: Undecided
Keith Steffek: Upper Iowa University
Brent Sweeney: Apprenticeship
Joshua Thomas: Hawkeye Community College
Brienne Wade: St. Ambrose University
Colton Warner: Marines