



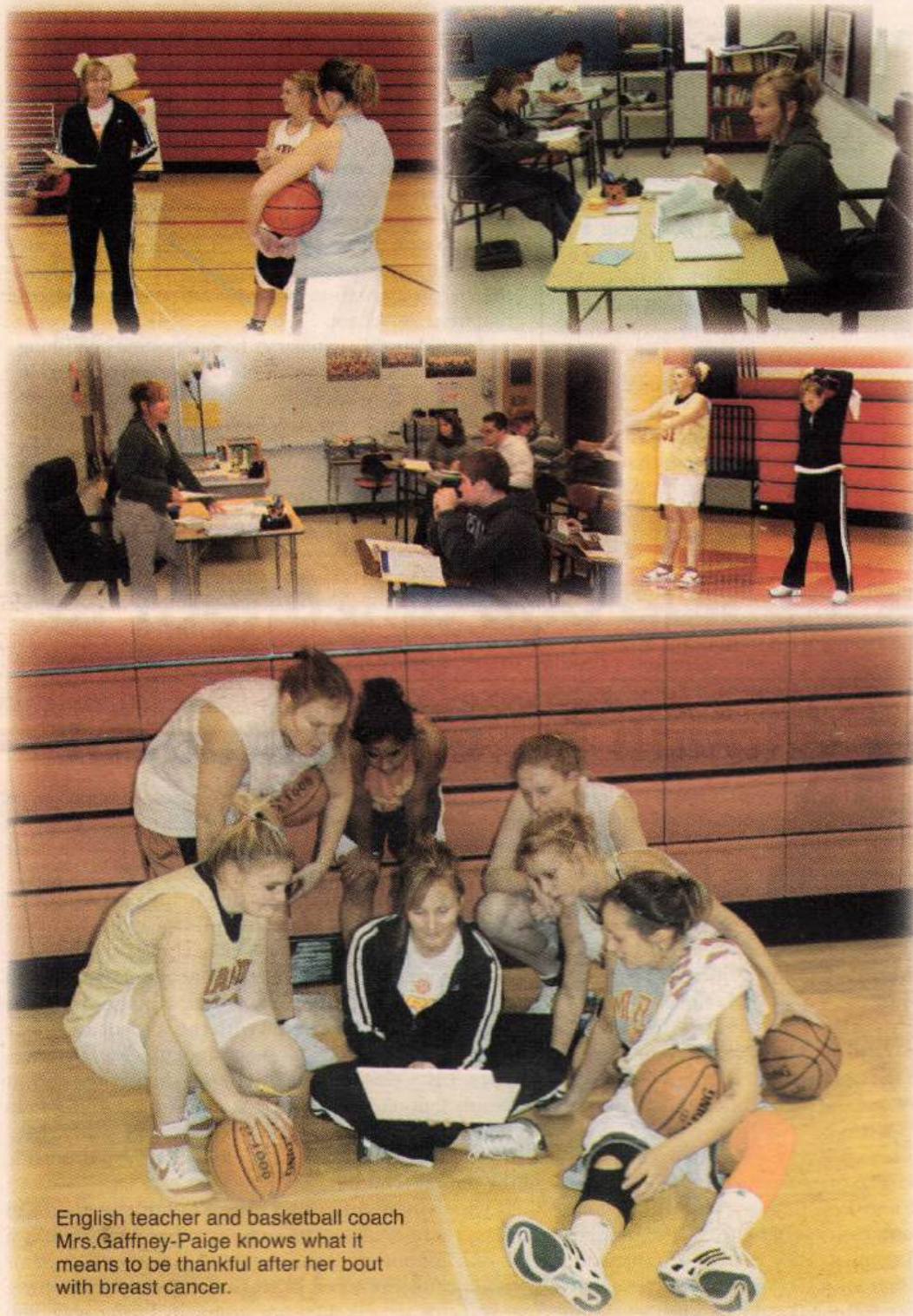
THE VOX

November 19, 2008
VOLUME: LXI, ISSUE: 2

The voice of the Marion Indians

675 S. 15th Street
Marion, IA, 52302
www.marion.k12.ia.us

Gaffney-Paige has reason to be thankful



English teacher and basketball coach Mrs. Gaffney-Paige knows what it means to be thankful after her bout with breast cancer.

By: Lauren Jilek
[Staff Writer]

Many students look forward to this time of year: a new term, new activities and sports to attend, and finally, the holidays. The holidays mean family, friends, and of course, cherishing everything that has been given to make life that much better. For some, this means traveling long distances, for some, it may be just around the corner. Either way, it is time to never be forgotten and Mrs. Gaffney-Paige is living proof of that.

Sheryl Gaffney-Paige teaches English to juniors and seniors and has been at Marion for twelve years.

With two children, who are very active, as well as coaching girl's basketball and

track and also staying active herself, Gaffney-Paige certainly keeps busy. It seems as though she likes it that way as she has a lot to live for. "Five years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I went through chemotherapy, radiation, and hormone therapy. I also had a lumpectomy which removed the tumor," Gaffney-Paige commented.

To her, the holidays are especially important to her and her family now. "I just lost my mom to cancer and it just goes to show you never know what will happen. It's important to spend time with your family and the people you love because you just never know."

Things have changed a lot for Mrs. Gaffney-Paige and her family in various aspects of their lives. "We spend more time with my dad at my brother and sisters' houses," she noted. She has also changed in ways of her lifestyle and eating habits. "I have been cutting down on

pop and drinking green tea. I also eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. I try to exercise every day, which I already did anyway."

Through her past, Gaffney-Paige also met her best friend who she spends time with. "I met (my best friend) while I was going through cancer. She is a cancer survivor too and we bike together," she said.

Another person she relied on continually through her recovery included her husband and also, her faith. "I think it is important to have a strong faith and to believe any obstacle can be overcome."

There is no doubt that Thanksgiving is surely a time to be thankful.

"I'm thankful for my health and my family, who have been with me through it all,"
-Mrs. Gaffney-Paige

There may be things that most everyone is thankful for and for Mrs. Gaffney-Paige, there is

even more to add now. "I'm thankful for my health and my family, who have been with me through it all." Mrs. Gaffney-Paige's outlook on life also differs now from when it did before the cancer. "I'm happy," she smiles. "I don't worry about the little things. I enjoy my family and my students."

It is clear that every obstacle that has crossed Mrs. Gaffney-Paige's path has changed her for the better. "(I hope others know) to not take days for granted. Go to your appointments, get your screenings. Life goes fast, be thankful for what you have."

Those are definite words to live by. It is a time to be thankful for everything you have and all the things that you love and Mrs. Gaffney-Paige is a prime example of living by those words. So whatever you are doing, it's important to remember everything you have that improves your life, even if just a little.

Awesome ITED week almost over; Holiday Dinner soon to come

Welcome to the second issue of the 2008-2009 Vox complete with a full 16 pages this time! How is everyone? Excellent. Well I suppose you're expecting something to read. Here it goes.

Um so I heard Christmas music on the radio the day after Halloween and it kinda freaked me out. I swear it gets earlier every year. I mean by starting that early it basically turns about 20 percent of the calendar year into the "holiday season." That's a lot. All stations that play any type of Christmas music before thanksgiving need to be entirely and ruthlessly boycotted. No exceptions.

Speaking of thanksgiving it's just around the corner. And soon after that comes holiday dinner. The mayhem

Commentary

and madness of hundreds of students rushing to the lunchroom at the same time is just awesome. This hurrying, however, must never turn into actual "running." I've heard stories of kids having to run sprints as punishment for crossing this motion threshold. Students spend weeks leading up to the event devising methods to leave class early, or find a secret short cut through an unknown underground tunnel. These attempts rarely work, but it's still worth a try in my mind. After all, we do get Christmas tree cakes.

We're currently in the middle/end of everyone's favorite week: ITED's! Just kidding. I have to admit, as a senior I don't have to take them (hahahaha!) but the pain that everyone else presently endures is fresh in my mind. Day after day of hearing, "Follow the directions silently while I read them aloud," and tediously and meticulously filling in dot after dot is enough to make somebody snap. Seriously

though, it messes with your head. And the same with all multiple-choice standardized testing. If you end up getting too many of the same letter in a row you think to yourself, "There is absolutely no way that I can get four stupid c's in a row." So you look back through them and still think c is the correct answer for each. But at the same time you know there's no way you can get four stupid c's in a row. So you go back and change one to a d, because it seems like d is never an answer to any of them. But, of course, it's incorrect. And then you have the infamous a-b-c-d-e sequence when they all line up diagonally. But it can't be done. There's always one missing. ALWAYS! Drives me nuts.

Congratulations to the volleyball squad. Well done.

Well I hope everyone has an outstanding Thanksgiving break. Eat lots of turkey and things. Talk to ya soon.

Index

Activities.....	p. 4-5
Editorial.....	p. 2
Entertainment.....	p.6-7
Features.....	p. 13-15
Game Page.....	p.16
Opinion.....	p. 3
Senior Interviews.....	p.10-11
Student Life.....	p. 8-9
World News.....	p. 12



By: Matt Barnd
[Photo Editor]

Mandatory PE unnecessary

Physical Education requirement should be waived for multi-sport athletes at MHS

Editorial

Physical education is a required class at Marion High School. Unless a student can obtain an academic, religious, or disability waiver, everyone must take at least one term of PE each year. This includes multi-sport athletes, participating in up to four sports who maintain rigorous physical routines throughout the year. If a student athlete is involved with two or more sports, they should not be required to take physical education.

Now this editorial is in no way intended to say that physical education is not important, as it can bring numerous benefits into students' lives; freshmen year PE and health class should remain mandatory. Instead, the purpose is to bring about attention toward the requirement that everyone, including multi-sport athletes, is required to take it.

It can be argued that teenagers do not possess an energy "limit." In other words activities in gym class should not affect the performance of an athlete in a practice or game that same day. However, as many students can attest, this does not appear to be the case. Perhaps on a day to day basis the physical consequence is limited, but over a long period of time students' bodies may become fatigued. This effect can be experienced only from the sport's rigors themselves, so PE activity can only add to this strain.

If a student has a full academic schedule, they are able to obtain an academic waiver nullifying the PE requirement for that particular school year. This essentially means that every other class offered at Marion High

School apparently takes academic precedence over physical education. This may not be the intention, but it is the effective result. After all, students are unable to obtain PE waivers to eliminate the requirement to take Global Studies. How is this logical, then, that a student can get out of taking Physical Education because of academics but not athletics when the two are mutually exclusive? It would make a great deal more sense if students had the opportunity to obtain athletic waivers, not academic ones.

The gym requirement also makes it much more difficult to have an open block. The mental and rigors of a season combined with the stress of school and other activities can become overwhelming at times. Having a senior or junior open block can greatly reduce this strain. But instead of this, a student may have to take PE, only adding to the constant physical exertion.

There are several solutions, or at least measures that can be taken to reduce these problems. The first would be to simply make waivers available to multi-sport athletes. This leaves it up to the student to make the decision of whether

they feel it would be beneficial to take PE along with their participation in athletics. If this is considered too much, the cut off can be bumped up to three or more sport athletes. There are also several short term steps that can be taken. Schedules should be manipulated to attempt to try and keep students out of PE during their respective sport's season. But if a student is indeed in a PE class during their season, their participation in that class on the day of a game or meet should be entirely waived. Any of these would help to reduce the current issue.

Once again, this editorial was in no way intended to explain that physical education is not needed. Everyone should maintain the required freshman year PE and health classes, as they are necessary and beneficial. But for older students, who are involved in multiple athletics,

Perhaps on a day to day basis the physical consequence is limited, but over a long period of time students bodies may become fatigued. This effect can even be experienced only from the sport's rigors themselves, so PE activity can only add to this strain.

Issue 1 blunder

As you probably noticed the first issue of *The Vox* was without pages thirteen and fourteen. As the Editor-in-Chief I felt it was important for readers to further understand the reasoning behind this and hopefully answer any questions through this explanation. As the notification slip we inserted read, the pages were removed due to a slander and libel issue. What the issue boils down to is one of our writers misquoted the subject of a story and made up facts to fill in space. The editors of the newspaper were not aware of the fabrications until the day the paper came out and, because presumed facts cannot be edited, there was next to nothing we could have done in prevention.

As I mentioned earlier while two pages of *The Vox* were removed, only one article on the pages was tainted. Therefore, since newspaper pages are front and back, the journalism staff made a decision to remove the pages rather than hand out newspapers with a missing story on one side and incomplete stories on the back. The stories on those pages are the ones that appear in this issue including a rewritten story by a new author of the one that was the cause of all this confusion.

As far as the writer who made the error, steps have been taken for punishment. The writer was not able to work on any stories that involved an interview and the progress with the new stories were monitored along the way. The writer was also assigned a harder work load than fellow journalism members and received a restitution from the school.

I would just like to reiterate how important publishing factual stories is to the staff of the *Vox* and once again offer our deepest apologies for the mistake. I hope we have not lost anyone's trust through this incident and the readers of the newspaper can feel safe with the content we publish.

this obligation should be amended. It would take unnecessary physical strain off of already demanding and difficult lives, and allow for an occasional open block. Academic waivers are able to be obtained, so why not athletic?

Class options at MHS offer enough for every student

By: Chelsey Banes [Staff Writer]

Walking through the halls of Marion High School, it is easy to tell that not all the students are alike. They dress differently, act differently, and some even talk differently. Therefore it shouldn't be assumed that all the students of MHS would be interested in the same types of classes. Marion is nowhere near the size of a college or university, but it does do a good job of providing classes for all types of interest.

Marion offers many different types of classes from Wood Tech to photography classes. The building classes go from Wood Tech all the way to a Building Trades class. The Building Trades class teams up with a class from Linn-Mar, and they actually build a house in the school district's neighborhood. The art department offers many photography classes ranging from photoshop to advanced photography. These classes allow students to express their creative side as well. The high school also offers classes in cooking, home economics, computer informative classes like Excel, Word, and Power Point. Marion also does a nice job of providing any type of class so that the students can really get the

type of class they are looking for, which helps students be more successful when they get ready to go out into the world.

Though Marion has a large variety of classes, it is true that there are more options that our small school can offer. This doesn't mean, however, that a student can't attend them; Kirkwood and Coe College do a good job of working with Marion to allow students to expand their learning from just the walls of Marion.

Students are able to take any class that the nearby colleges offer. Students still get high school credit as well as college credit, and the best part is it is free. The school pays for the class as long as the high school student passes the class. Not only does this help with the cost of college but it also lets students experience the atmosphere of a college class. Marion also offers some in school college courses such as AP English, Calculus, Art History, and Art Studio. These courses are tougher than the regular classes offered at Marion so they are on a 5.00 scale instead of a 4.00. When an AP class is completed, that student gets the choice to take the AP exam. By taking the exam, a student can earn college credits depending on how well he/she does on the test.

With the advantage of college classes, Marion's class options truly are endless, allowing students to get a better grasp on what they really want to do with their futures.

Some, however, may argue that being part of a small school district such as Marion would be a disadvantage to the students because of the lack of classes and involvement activities. However, a smaller school district can be more of an advantage than a disadvantage. Teachers and staff are more connected with the student and more interested in the success of their students. For instance, Physics 3 is a class that isn't offered during the day at the high school, but because it could potentially help students succeed in their desired field of study, Mr. Zrudsky offers the class to students interested outside of the actual school day.

If what you're interested in can't really be taught in a class, there is always the chance that Marion has a club or some sort of organization that supports or deals with your future career. If Marion doesn't already have one you can always start one yourself. Either way, you can begin your future as soon as you want and Marion can help.

2008-2009 Vox Staff



Patrick Tiernan
-Editor-in-Chief



Matt Barnd
-Photo Editor



Samuel Kiburz
-Design Editor
-Opinion Editor



Scout Morehouse
-Activities Editor



Nicole Pratt
-Advertising
Editor



Lauren Jilek
-Feature Editor



Chelsey Banes
-Staff Writer



Haley Berry
-Staff Writer



Casey Burns
-Staff Writer



Jenna Koppedryer
-Staff Writer



Elizabeth Magorian
-Staff Writer



Elizabeth Smiley
-Staff Writer

THE VOX 2008-2009 STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY

Advisor: Sarah Eicher

Editor-in-Chief: Patrick Tiernan

Photo Editor: Matt Barnd

Feature Editor: Lauren Jilek

Design Editor/Opinion Editor: Samuel Kiburz

Activities Editor: Scout Morehouse

Reporters: Chelsey Banes, Haley Berry, Casey Burns, Jenna Koppedryer, Elizabeth Magorian, Elizabeth Smiley.

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.

Conduct calls for change

Involved, non-involved students need to abide by the same rules

By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

Almost every athletic season, at least one student gets caught drinking alcohol. It doesn't matter if it's winter and its basketball season or if it's summer and its baseball season. There have been many instances where students have gotten caught, and there has already been over five this year. We are only into the second term of school, but that number of students seems very high right?

Once a student gets caught drinking or violating the code of conduct they have to suffer the consequences. The first

offense penalty is loss of eligibility for 33% to 66% of contests/performances/activities. The second offense penalty is loss of eligibility: minimum of 66% of contests/performances/activities. The third offense penalty is loss of eligibility for 12 months of contests/performances/activities. When a student gets caught on an obstruction of the code of conduct, ineligibility begins immediately upon discovery of a violation if the student is eligible and currently engaged in an activity. If the penalty is not completed during the current activity, the remaining time is carried over to the student's next activity. If the student's next activity is more than 12 months from when they were caught, there will be no penalty to serve.

Not only should active students have to abide by these rules and have to deal with the consequences, but students that aren't involved with athletics or activities should have some form of decent conduct rules.

Students that aren't involved in any activities should have some form of conduct rules because they represent our

school in the same way that the involved do, and our school deserves a good representation. Some rules that should be enforced are: any kind of drug or alcohol use under the legal age of consent. If these rules were broken the consequences could be:

First offense would result in no admittance to ten school sponsored activities (sporting events, concerts, plays, and dances). Second offense would include no admittance to twenty school sponsored activities. If a third offense occurs the student should not be allowed to attend school sponsored events for a full school year. If these rules were enforced they would help with the underage drinking of students here at Marion High School.

So many students, that aren't involved in athletics or activities, get in trouble for underage drinking or other substance abuses. They get in trouble by the police, but they don't get in trouble from the school.

Not only should athletes have to live up to a certain conduct, all students of MHS should have to live up to a code of conduct. If the students here at MHS had to live up to that conduct, our school would be a better place in the scheme of things.

Proposed Code of Conduct Amendments for non-participants:

First offense: No admittance to ten school sponsored activities/events.

Second Offense: No admittance to 20 school sponsored activities/events.

Third Offense: No admittance to school sponsored activities, events for a full calendar year

Society is too superficial

By: Nicole Pratt [Advertising Editor]

Today's society has become extremely materialistic, especially in teenagers. Nowadays it's all about who has what, how expensive it is, and what version someone has of it. Also, we have little value for money. We are programmed to want more, need more, and not be able to survive without more. This display of greediness is getting ridiculous. Our society has become so superficial and has begun spending ridiculous amounts of money on extremely overpriced items such as purses, shoes, clothes, sunglasses, computers, and other items that are outrageous for someone to spend so much money on just to own a "special brand" of a certain item. Such a thought makes me laugh, but not for long because I am as well a sucker for all these catchy items. Today's

society and crazy advertising makes everything so appealing that you just can't resist. Contrary to popular belief wearing an Abercrombie T-shirt does not define someone as "cool". Having the latest iPod Touch does not hold the keys to life suc-

cess.

Money will not bring everything that one may desire. Materialistic things may temporarily satisfy happiness, but the best things in life don't have price tags. When the average American thinks of their future they probably in most cases want to have a big house, fancy car, and nice things. People tend to forget the simple things in life are the ones that will

make someone the happiest. People should be praised for things that don't depend on money or appearance. Our role models shouldn't be a celebrity or extremely rich person. A person should be judged on their character rather than their appearance or material belongings.

Everyone needs to stop spending ridiculous amounts on unnecessary materialistic items that are way over priced. Also, maybe stop spending money you don't have. Following these steps would greatly im-

prove our lives from being judged on such materialistic elements and living such superficial lives, but is anything really going to change? Probably not.

Typical expensive products purchased by students

- 1) Clothes
- 2) Video Games
- 3) iPods
- 4) Shoes
- 5) Phones
- 6) Purses
- 7) Jewelry
- 8) Athletic Equipment
- 9) Car Accessories
- 10) Computers

Dress code debate

By: Casey Burns [Staff writer]

Some people have a problem with the dress code, while others don't. There has been some commotion with all of this, but we have somewhat managed to keep control of most situations. There are a lot of teachers that don't like to see students walking in with a low-cut shirt or "short shorts", or even the guys with the pants pulled down so their boxers are showing. There are a lot of problems with girls and what they are wearing. It has been a problem for quite some time and no one seems to care all too much. Some female students wear their shorts way too short to the point where their butt-cheeks are hanging out and not too many people really want to see that.

Shirts are another thing that the girls have a problem with at our school. Some of the low-cut t-shirts and tank tops are showing way too much and we don't need that. There is no need. The point of clothes is to cover you, not show off what you've got. It really isn't that hard to cover what you need to cover. You will see how many people really appreciate it and look up to you more.

Now it's time to move on to the guys. The guys don't have as many problems as the girls, but they definitely still have some. The first one

is that they have their pants sagging down and there is no need for it. Everyone should have a belt. That's what they are for. Not for the good look, but to keep your pants from falling to the ground and not having to hold them up every time you walk. Some people take it as offensive and others don't, but the gentlemen need to be more respectful and just learn to keep them up around their waist, and not all the way down to their knees like some people.

The last thing it that the guys are always wearing hats to school and trying to wear them in between classes. What's the big deal about waiting until the end of the day when school is over and you're out of the building? It's not a life or death crisis and I don't think that waiting more than six or seven hours is really something to worry about. You will be able to wear them after school and for the rest of the night and than take them off again the next morning.

Whether you are a guy or a girl, it doesn't matter. We all have rules to abide by and everyone should follow them. Everyone is equal here at MHS, and no one is higher than the other, so we might as well follow the rules that are set and get over it. The rules are going to stay the same whether anyone likes it or not.



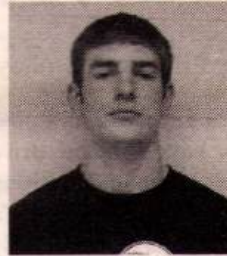
"I think that the problem with it is it isn't uniformly enforced. I think we need a dress code to keep the kids here looking appropriate for school. The problem is people have different interpretations of appropriate."

-Ms. Duning, Science



"I think that by the time we get to high school, we should be responsible enough to know what is "school appropriate"... The dress code helps."

-Lindsay Spear, freshman



"It should be less severe because girls and guys aren't able to fully express themselves."

-Riley Odean, senior

Ho-Ho-Holiday Shopping

TIPS FOR KEEPING IT FUN AND AFFORDABLE!

No matter the size of your holiday shopping list, it's easy to overspend...which can lead to post-holiday stress when your credit card bill arrives. To avoid the stress, exercise some self-control and follow these simple rules:



1. Make a list of all the people you want to buy for, assign an affordable dollar limit to each person and stick to it! After all, it really should be the thought that counts.
2. Shop early! You're more likely to search for the best deal and less likely to impulse buy.
3. Pay close attention to shipping charges when you buy something online.
4. Avoid charging on credit unless you can pay off the full amount within 30 days.
5. Start saving for 2009's holiday expenses this January. Determine what you need to save based on this year's expenditures and save a little each month. Cash-in-hand makes shopping even more fun!

Brought to you by:

Metco
Credit Union

115 8th Ave SW
in Cedar Rapids
(Next to The Flying Wienie)
319.398.5007

Everything is online & on YOUR time at www.MetcoCU.org

Building one house at a time for Marion

By: Scout Morehouse [Activities Editor]

As the class comes to an end, the hammers and nails are set down. All the student's hard work has paid off as they stare at the house that they just helped build.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing, there's a class at MHS just for you. The class is called Building Trades and it is taught by Bruce Weisinger. Bruce Weisinger graduated from UNI and has been teaching here for 27 years. He's also the head freshman football and varsity wrestling coach for the Marion Indians.



Mr. Weisinger,
Building Trades

Now before you go and sign up for this class, there's one thing you need should know. This class is only meant for seniors. Not just any senior can take this class though, "It's best if they [students] have took some industrial technology classes before, that way they understand what's going on," explains Mr. Weisinger. Building Trades wasn't a class that has been here since MHS was first made. Mr. Weisinger was actually the one who came up with the class. He brainstormed it for a while and brought the idea to the old principal, Todd Twachtman. After telling him the idea for the class and discussing it with school board officials, they finally agreed to allow Mr. Weisinger teach Building Trades. Ever since they made this class, Building Trades has been a huge success. A lot of the seniors who are taking the class look forward to going to class and enjoy building a house for someone who

will need it.

Building a house isn't cheap and the school doesn't help fund it so Mr. Weisinger found the perfect way to pay for the construction. "We took a loan from a bank just like everyone else and with that money, we buy the material from a local lumber yard," said Weisinger. This is the 18th house that the Building Trades class has made and put on the housing market. Because it's on the housing market, anybody can buy the house they build. Another thing is that the only thing Building Trades doesn't provide is hammers and some other small building tools that are used in making a house.

Building trades can also be a very educational class. "I teach all the construction practices and phases that go into making a house," explains Mr. Weisinger. This class can also be beneficial for future house owners or for those going into construction. "Everyone is going to have a house to maintain so this will help them with repairs." This means if flood damage occurs or a tornado strikes and damages your house, you'll know how to repair some of the damage. Also, most homes aren't brand new so you'll need to know how to fix it when it starts to fall apart.

With a lot of hard work come a lot of different emotions. Building a house can cause a lot of frustration



Justin Guler, James Soldner, Drew Clark, and Brad Rose (far right), all seniors, can be seen during the Building Trades class. The class is run by Mr. Weisinger and is made up of Marion and Linn-Mar students.

and stress. "Certainly there's issues that come up in the process that cause frustration," Weisinger said. There is also joy and Bruce Weisinger explains, "Then there's the sense of accomplishment that causes joy."

So if you're up to the challenge to build a house from scratch and you're good at working with others, then Building Trades is the class for you. Just remember that you're building a house for someone that will be thankful for all the hard work you put into the house. That's a gift that keeps on giving.

Marion helps save lives

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

For many years now Marion High School has held a blood drive open to the student body. The blood drive is sponsored by the Mississippi Regional Valley and organized by Mrs. Dostal. Mrs. Dostal is also in charge of Win with Wellness which helps raise awareness of healthier ways to live. She uses the students in Win with Wellness to help at the blood drive. They get people to sign up and also work at the blood drive.



Kathleen Neff,
junior

Before Mrs. Dostal was in charge of the blood drive Mrs. Martin ran it. She was the old English teacher and the Journalism teacher. Mrs. Martin had used her Journalism students to do what the Win with Wellness members now do.

Kathleen Neff is a junior at Marion High School. She is involved in NHS, FBLA, FCA, volunteering, dance at Dancers Edge, football, basketball, and competition cheer, and also Win

with Wellness. "Sometimes it gets really hard to manage my busy schedule, but it usually all works out. You really have to prioritize," Kathleen explained. She worked at this year's first blood drive and also donated blood at the drive. The blood drive was held Wednesday, November fifth in the gold gym.

The drive is open to anyone part of the student body that would like to help, but unfortunately not everyone that wants to help can. Before you can give blood you must meet a few requirements. These requirements include weighing at least one-hundred ten pounds, being at least sixteen years old, and having parental consent.

It takes a lot of effort, time, planning, and organizing before a blood drive can take place. Many volunteers are also needed. Each of the four blocks five Win with Wellness members were needed to work in the gym during the blood drive to help out.

This year's first blood drive had roughly sixty students donate blood. The next blood drive is coming in April. If you would like to participate or get involved you should talk to Mrs. Dostal. For more information you can check out www.bloodcenter.org.

Enjoying the time she has

By: Elizabeth Magorian [Staff Writer]

Erin Peiffer is a senior here at Marion High School. She has participated in choir all four years of high school but has been singing since the 4th grade. Erin also participates in girls only choir and show choir. "There are a lot of people in choir, about 150 people," says Erin. The choir instructor is Mrs. Jones. Right now the choir is working on just about everything, including modern, classical and gospel. They are trying to hit on every type of music not just focus on one genre.

When asked about what's different about choir this year then all the other years Erin replied, "Choir is more organized this year." Something that Erin finds hard about choir is making sure that everyone's together while singing. What Erin likes the most about choir is that she loves to sing and it's a fun environment to be in. "A fun moment in choir for me is when we get to share random things with everyone because they're always funny," said Erin. Her favorite part about choir is when they get something right and they know it sounds amazing.

Erin just had All-State tryouts; unfortunately she didn't make it, but said, "It was still a lot of fun." Their next choir concert will be the winter concert. They don't have a fundraiser for the winter concert. There are a lot of choir members that are going to be participating in the musical as well. Erin plans on continuing choir in college and explains "What I will miss the most about high school choir is all the people and having a class that is devoted to singing." Said Erin. One last thing that Erin wanted to add was that they always love new comers and that they need more boys to join choir.



Erin Peiffer,
senior



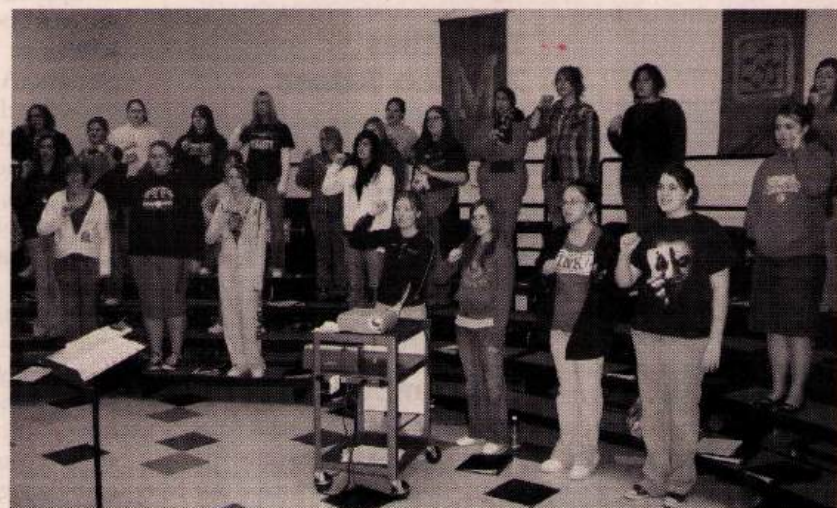
"I think the blood drive was a huge success and it ran very smoothly."
-Leah Smith, sophomore



"I think it went really well and a lot of people donated. It was really successful."
-Chelsea Houser, junior



"It went really well, and I was happy to help."
-Tyler Fisher, sophomore



Members of the Cantorei Choir go through singing warm-ups during the class. The Winter Concert is scheduled for Monday, December 8th.

What Marion has accomplished

By: Scout Morehouse
[Activities Editor]

Competition Cheer

The competition cheerleaders entered the room with high hopes and ready to do whatever they could to get to the top. The parents were cheering and then it got quiet as soon as Marion started their cheer routine. The cheerleaders made no mistakes and it showed, because they did extremely well and placed 2nd in 3A state competition cheerleading. This is one of the best rankings they have got when they went to state for competition cheer.

Football

The popular fall sport fell short of their goal this year. The confident 8-1 football team was ready to make it farther than just the sub-state game. It was a cold autumn night when the Indians played the West Delaware Hawks. There was a lot of pressure riding on the player's shoulders being the team that was supposed to go all the way. The playoff game didn't start off too well for the Indians; only three plays into the game the Hawks already scored a touchdown. The Indians had their moments but lost 35-2.

Cross Country

As the fall season gets closer to winter, fall sports must inevitably come to an end. One of these fall sports is cross-country. Unfortunately, the boy's cross-country team didn't make it to state, but the girl's went for their 5th straight appearance. The girls arrived ready to run, but fell short of their goal and got 12th place. Even though they didn't do as well as they expected Mrs. Logan stays positive, "If there's one thing I'd have to say is that they girls cross-country team were very positive, hard-working, and a fun group to work with." Monica Kelly placed the highest for Marion receiving 14th place.

Volleyball

Last but not least one of the most successful fall sports, volleyball. Having a record of 44-6 (being the best record in school history) they couldn't be stopped. The 2nd-ranked Indians were on their way to the state tournament. The first team they played was 8th ranked Fairfield. Marion was determined and didn't let the rankings get to them. They played volleyball just like they always do and won the first match 25-13. Marion continued playing with the desire to win and won the next two matches 25-20 and 25-18. The team's final goal is to win state.

New cheers for Vest

Sammy Vest's first season of cheering for varsity football is a success

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

The football cheerleading season has reached its end for this year. But for someone like senior Sammy Vest, cheerleading is more than just one season, whether it's singing or cheerleading, senior Sammy Vest says, "I love being in front of crowds!"

This season is Sammy's first time cheering for Varsity football. "It's AMAZING!" explained Sammy. This is not her first year cheering though. Sammy also cheers for wrestling and is a part of the competition cheer team.

"I really enjoy Cheerleading in general, it gives me major, major adrenaline and I love it." She told me that it takes up a lot of time and commitment, but it also keeps her very organized.

While some people don't really consider cheerleading a sport, they are very wrong. "We work just as hard, sometimes harder than other groups that call themselves a sport." Cheerleaders jump and twirl, twist

and yell, and that seems just as hard as a lot of things. I know a lot of people that can't jump the way cheerleaders can.

"My favorite stunt is the triple diamond because it involves the whole squad and it's Marion's signature stunt." Cheerleading obviously involves a lot of cheering also, "My favorite cheer is 'crack their face'-the entire stand looks at you and gives you a look like, can they really do that, it's so funny," Sammy said.

She not only cheered every Friday night at the amazing football games, but she is also involved in competition cheer. On Saturday, November 1st, the cheer team competed against fifteen teams at the state cheer competition in Des Moines. It was a tough go, but the Marion squad pulled out an outstanding 2nd place finish. "It feels really good, I'm so proud that we worked as a team and pulled through to get 2nd, I mean 2nd place in state, that's amazing!"



The cheerleaders perform the triple diamond at the Homecoming pep rally.

High expectations for Girl's B'Ball

By: Patrick Tiernan [Editor-in-Chief]

Coming off one of the most successful seasons in Marion Varsity Girl's Basketball history, the expectations are understandably high for this year's team. Taking into mind the fact that only two of the starters were lost and the members of the team have been working hard in the off-season, big things should be expected from the Indians.

Last season was arguably the best in school history for the girl's team with the squad going undefeated at home, winning the WaMaC conference, and making to the semifinals of the state tournament. Three of the team's starters earned all state honors and just happen to be returning for this year's season. That list includes junior Brittany Fish, junior Morgan Paige, and senior Sam Rinehart. Point guard Brittany Fish is positive on the outlook for this year, "My expectations for the team are pretty high, hopefully we do just as good as last year if not better."

Besides the three returning starters, the Indians will look to receive big help from other players including sophomore Leah Smith, Chelsea Jones, Maggie Murphy, Amanda Petersen (all juniors), and senior Shelby Perkins, who all saw varsity playing time last year. Brittany elaborated on the presumably two open spots in the starting lineup, "It will be interesting to see who gets it because there's a lot of people who have been working hard so I'm not sure who will get the spots." Brittany went on to add about the depth and work ethic of players of this year's team, "I think we should have a successful season this year because we have a lot of people returning and a lot of people have been working in the off-season to get better."

Brittany herself has been working hard to prepare for her junior season though she was slowed down by an injury. Brittany had sur-

gery in June to repair torn cartilage in her knee and did physical therapy during the summer. She is happy to report, though, that it's feeling better, "For the most part it's back to full strength."

During the summer Brittany was on a basketball team that traveled to cities such as Chicago and Minneapolis to play in tournaments. Though her playing time was limited because of her knee, being around basketball still proved beneficial in fueling her interest for this season. Brittany commented, "Yeah, I'm pretty excited. Since I missed most of the summer I'm eager to play."

Brittany has some hefty goals for this year's season and elaborated, "My goals for the team are to make it back to the state tournament and hopefully win it, win the WaMaC conference again, and stay undefeated at home." As far as why basketball is something Brittany continues to do despite having to battle through injuries, "I just really enjoy it and it's always been something that's really fun to play." Brittany's favorite aspects of basketball are along the same lines, "My favorite thing is probably playing with teammates, the games that are close, and the competitiveness of it."

Hopefully all works out for this year's team, which includes the talent and experience needed to accomplish some amazing feats. The team has what it takes to succeed and should be an exciting group to watch this winter.



Brittany Fish, junior

PREGNANT?

we're here to help

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

CALL 393.3251

B

irthright®

800.550.4900 | www.birtheright.org

HSM3 should have stayed on Disney Channel

High School Musical 3 made it to the big screen and became a huge hit

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

It started out as a huge hit on the Disney Channel; then the third time around, it made it to the big screen, making 61.75 million dollars in the first two weekends alone! The movie of course is High School Musical 3 senior year, or HSM3, and overall it was flashy, cheesy, and really cute.

There was romance, prom, friendships, fighting, dancing and singing. HSM3 was flashy because the songs were so huge, and the director, Kenny Ortega, just made them "pop."

HSM3 was also super cheesy though. During the movie there would just be a random saying that would never happen, and there were a lot of random break outs in song. Also one time Troy (Zac Efron) was about to shoot a free throw, and Gabriella (Vanessa Hudgens) stood up in the crowd and yelled, "TROY," for like 30 seconds, it was so dumb. It also had its "aww" moments though, like when Troy goes to see Gabriella when she is on her college visit, it's adorable. There is also this really awkward and random scene where a guy playing Troy's role in their school musical pops out, and then he starts changing their whole script and makes Sharpay (Ashley Tisdale) about have a cow! The whole movie though is

"[HSM3 made] 61.75 million dollars the first two weekends alone!"

basically like any senior year. Thinking about college, relationships, prom, and getting excited about graduation!

Dancing and singing took over this movie obviously; there were so many cute songs such as, "Can I Have this Dance," and "Just Wanna Be With You." There were also songs that made you just want to get up and dance like, "I Want It All," and "Last Chance." The whole soundtrack is pretty good. Of course, there were a lot of stupid songs also, like "The Boys are Back," and "A Night to Remember."

I wouldn't really say this is a must see, especially if you are not into the whole "musical" kind of thing, but if you liked the first two, you would really like this one. It's just a new scene not

watching it on Disney, which is sort of sad. Plus all the crazy special effects made it weird. It is a really good musical but has its cheesy-ness, just like any movie. The ending is actually pretty good, but you have to see it yourself to see what happens.

HSM3 is over all an okay movie, but again you wouldn't really be missing too much. I also saw the first two, and this one being on the big screen made it better, but also super different for not being on Disney. It was cute, like I said, but just too cheesy and flashy for me.

What do students have to say about High School Musical 3?



"My favorite part was Zac's whole song...oh my god...it made me want to scream!"

-Morgan Paige, junior

"I thought it was really cool, even better than the other two."

-Adam Cooper, senior



"I liked that all of a sudden they break out into song and dance!"

-Ashlin Korf, freshman

Servant of the devil

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

There are a lot of movies that have come out and not very many of them are very good. The Haunting of Molly Hartley is a suspenseful and intriguing movie that a lot of people would enjoy.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Hartley has had a rough life. Quite a few years ago, her mom stabbed her because she thought it was best for her. It was later found out that when she was trying to do religious acts or things, she became psychotic and they (Molly and her father) couldn't understand at all and were very frightened.

Molly is physically and emotionally recovering from the trauma that her mother gave her. The psychological scars that remain are very hard to get out and let go of.

To help her have a fresh new start and begin a new life after her trauma, Molly was moved to another school. She is trying to deal with the stress of being the new girl and being haunted by the nightmares of her mother's attack.

In the mean time, Molly tries to go see someone from a Christian helping center where her friend is and asks her for help. She takes her to a church and Molly says that she wants to know the Lord more and so her friend decides to

baptize her. When they are in the water, the friend tries to drown her, but Molly manages to get away.

After she gets out of the church, Molly starts running home and a guy named Joseph stops and picks her up, bringing her to his house. There, he leaves her and she is wondering what is going on. Walking around the house, trying to find him, she sees him in a room with a birthday cake for her eighteenth birthday.

But it is all just a scam. Dr. Emerson and another man holding

Molly's dad walks in and Molly is extremely frightened and doesn't know what to do. Dr. Emerson tells her the story of when Her mom was pregnant and they made her (Dr. Emerson) a deal. That deal was when she turns 18, she was to be killed in order to save her from becoming a servant of the Devil.

If you are someone that is into scary movies and likes suspense, this is the movie for you. There are some parts where the directors could have done a better job and made it more interesting, but they did do a pretty good job on the movie as a whole.

If you are someone that is into scary movies and likes suspense, this is the movie for you.

December 2nd: extended yearbook-payment deadline

The deadline to order your copy of the 2008-09 yearbook has been extended to December 2nd! You can get your copy by going to jostensyearbooks.com, entering in your username and password, and filling out the information. It's as easy as that!

This year's 160-page yearbook will feature each and every MHS student, and will cover each and every sport, activity, and club. The cost for the book is \$60, which is a steal if you consider all the hard work and personalization that is included on every single page.

You also have the option to add your name and any personalized icon you want to the cover of your yearbook. Other options include a Hear the Year cd, clear protective cover, and an autograph section so your friends can sign your yearbook!

The option to order ends soon, so don't miss out on a great opportunity to see yourself and your friends in print!

ABC morning line-up disappoints

Commentary

So I've been sick a few days this year already and I'm not going to lie every time I'm sick I always watch the morning line up of early morning television. Lately the content of these shows has been okay, but some are definitely doing better than others.

My schedule for those certain sick days would start like this: I would wake up around seven o'clock and turn on my favorite news channel, news channel nine. I don't know why but I've always been the type to watch channel nine. It just starts the days off right when I hear the voice of Ashley Hinson in the morning. But I get really excited once I hear that theme song of Good Morning America, or as I like to call it, GMA. They have the perfect balance of hard hitting news, the sad stuff, and



By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

pop culture (without going E! news on us or anything). I get the same feeling when I watch GMA as I do when I watch KCRG TV9. Something about the voice of Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts make me feel happy. But overall GMA is doing a good job for the two hours that they are on television; making it a good mix of everything that everyone likes in a morning news show.

After I'm satisfied with my GMA I stick to the same channel, Live with Regis and Kelly. I mean this show has come a long way since Kathy Lee was the co-host, but they could do better. I've been watching this show for a few years now and it seems like they're doing the same old things that they have always been doing. They talk for 30

minutes to each other about recent events, then they go into doing there little game show were they take calls from viewers from all over the country that answer trivial question about something that happened or was said on the previous show. After they do this, which is actually kind of entertaining, they talk about their celebrity guest that is on the show, the guests are usually on the show because they are trying to promote a certain project that they are involved in. This is also pretty entertaining, once the guest is done chatting with Reg and Kel they go to commercial break. When they come back from their minuscule break they go to their musical guest, this is also semi-entertaining. Live with Regis and Kelly has been on forever and I don't see it going anywhere but it definitely needs to freshen some things up a bit.

Again, once I'm done watching Regis and Kelly, I stay tuned in and continue to watch ABC and get to experience The View. Watching The View is something that everyone needs to experience once in his or her life. It a mess! The cast consists of: Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, Sherri Sheperd, Elizabeth Hasselbeck, and Barbara Walters. All of the women that sit at the table are pretty liberal, except for the devout republican, Elizabeth. It's so annoying how they all attack each other after they are done talking or even sometimes before they are done talking. It seems these days that the only thing that they are arguing about is Barack Obama and John McCain. And most of the women don't think before they talk and sound like idiots. The newest addition to the show is, Whoopi. That was the smartest move that the show could have made. She acts as the moderator and referee. It's also been fairly smart for them to add her because people listen to Whoopi and she gives the show some comic relief.

Since I've been sick all I wanted to do was the watch morning line-up: GMA, Live With Regis and Kelly, and The View. All solid shows, but all need a little work to make them a little more interesting. All that the shows need to change is their concept just a little bit, not too much or the shows will change entirely. However, if you're available to watch these shows, you'll definitely be entertained by them.

PAPA JOHN'S
Better Ingredients.
Better Pizza.

ATTENTION CREATURES OF THE NIGHT!

CHECK OUT THIS DEAL!

Late Night Special
(after 10 p.m.)

Medium one topping pizza \$6.99!

Make it a large \$1 more

PAPA JOHN'S
Better Ingredients.
Better Pizza.

It's more than just a shoe

What shoe styles are hot and what shoe styles are not?

By: Jenna Koppedryer [Staff Writer]

Everyone has those one pair of tennis shoes they love and could never throw away. Whether they are a pair of Jordans or DCs, they will always have a special place in your heart. But maybe you're looking for a new pair of kicks to jump-start a new look, and you don't know what kind of shoe is stylish or cool. The first thing you must do is



Amanda Peterson, junior, shows off her Nike shoes. Nike shoes are one of the most popular teenage shoe brands.

identify what kind of shoes you're looking for.

If you're looking for a fashionable athletic shoe, a fresh pair of Jordans are a great choice. Jordan shoes are one of the biggest trends hitting the high school scene right now and are a great buy. But maybe you're not into Jordans; Nikes are also a great option. Both Nike and Jordan shoes can range from casual to chic. And not only are these shoes dashing, they are also very comfortable. Although Jordan and Nike are sly, the prices of these shoes are not. If you're on a budget, finding a cheap pair of Nikes or Jordans may be difficult, but not impossible. There are always amazing sales at stores such as Finish Line, Dick's, and Foot Locker, but one place you are always going to find a bargain is the Nike outlet in Williamsburg. Although it's 45 minutes away, it's well worth the drive. These kinds of shoes are also great if you are going to be on your feet for a long period of time, such as work or shopping. But I would not recommend these shoes for running. Nike does make running shoes, but compared to some other brands, these shoes just don't make the cut.

So what are some kinds of shoes that would be acceptable for running?

Personally, one of my favorite brands is Mizuno. Many people think the Mizuno Company just makes volleyball shoes, but they are mistaken. Mizuno's running shoes are top of the line, not only in comfort but also in quality. These shoes can last through almost anything. Mud, rain, or snow, Mizunos can make it through it all. These shoes are also notably stylish for running shoes.

But let's say you're not into the Mizunos, Aasics are also a prominent running shoe brand. Like Mizuno, Aasics are one of the comfiest running shoes available. One of the most important parts about a running shoe is its arch support, and both Mizuno and Aasics shoes provide substantial support. Another nice feature about these shoes are the different varieties and styles of shoes. Whatever kind of foot you have, you can find a shoe to fit it. Whether your foot is wide or thick, high arches or no arches at all, Aasics and Mizuno can find a shoe that will fit you. And unlike Nikes these shoes come at a reasonable price that will last a lifetime.

But the most important quality of a shoe is its personality. If you have a punk rock personality, then get a shoe that will display that. Don't try to change your look just because someone may not approve of it. Your appearance should reflect how you feel and your attitude toward the world. So if you're feeling sporty, get a sporty shoe, if you're feeling emo get an emo shoe. As Doctor Seuss said, "Be who you are and say what you feel because those who matter don't mind and those mind don't matter."

What is your favorite brand of shoe?



"[I like] Aasics, because they are comfy and good."
-Kaleb Tuetken, sophomore



"[I like] Nike, because there's there's a variety of colors and they're comfy."
-Lesley Hennessey, junior



"I like Aasics, because they're comfy and light."
-Derek Kruger, senior



"I like Puma, because they're cute and comfortable."
-Melissa Gustas, freshman

RB2 will rock your world

By: Scout Morehouse [Activities Editor]

The lights focus on the center stage, the crowds going crazy, and you and your band walk out from behind the curtains. The crowd erupts, as you're about to play your first song.

Chances of this happening in real life are very slim. That's why Harmonix created a game that makes an average Joe feel like a rock star. This game is called Rock Band 2. Developed by Harmonix and distributed by MTV and EA. Rock Band 2 is the sequel to the multi-million dollar game known as Rock Band.

Rock Band 2, like any other game has its good parts, bad parts, and worst parts of the game. The good part of the Rock Band 2 is that it's a fun game when you're hanging with all your friends. It offers hours of play so it'll take awhile for you to beat the game. Luckily the game's songs vary from different genres of rock. Some of the more popular songs are CrushCrushCrush, White Wedding, One Step Closer, Hungry like a Wolf Down with the Sickness, and Lump. Many of the songs are classics and chart toppers from the 80's and 90's showing you not all old songs are boring. This also shows parents that not all new songs are bad for their kids and teach them bad things.

Another good part of Rock Band 2 is it's much more of a challenge than the one before it. Now for some this may not seem good because that means easy just got harder, but it doesn't make it boring. They add in a couple more notes here and there that way you're not just sitting there holding a guitar or drumsticks. Once you get good and go to hard or expert difficulty then you'll start to understand what hard and expert should be like. They add a lot of hammer-ons and fast note playing making it more challenging and not as boring.

Also, if your parents enjoy playing Rock Band but keep failing the song making it almost impossible to finish one song then you will enjoy another new feature Rock Band 2 put in. The new feature that makes it so you

can't fail a song makes it possible for you to finish a song even if your parents are playing with you. This also makes it possible for you to finish some of the hardest songs like Panic Attack and Pain Killer.

The bad part of the game is that it's not very fun if you play it by yourself. The game is called Rock Band for a reason. A band is more than one person so that means Rock Band 2 is suppose to be played by a group of people. Also Rock Band 2 costs \$60 for just the game. The game does include over 80 songs but some are very short and aren't even much of a challenge. The long songs are also very boring because a lot of it is just one note or chord. The only challenge in the long songs are the extremely tiring solos.

The worst part of the game is that it costs \$200 for the game, guitar, microphone, and drums. This may seem like a lot but to have a full band you also need another guitar, which costs \$60 to \$70. Then there's the part of the game where you can purchase more songs online. Many of these songs that you can buy are the more recent ones that everyone wants to play and by doing this they make the songs really expensive. It's almost \$2 for one song. So if you're planning on getting some new songs just wait until they put out their occasional free download. The only problem with that is a lot of the free songs aren't very popular. This shouldn't discourage very many people because who doesn't want something that's free. Some of their free downloads that you can get include Young by Hollywood Undead, Desperate Times, Desperate Measures by Underoath, and Sons and Daughters by The 88.

Overall Rock Band 2 is a fun game to play with all your friends. It deserves an 8/10 because even though the game is slightly overpriced it allows hours and hours of continuous play and fun with your friends and family. So if you're ready to take on the challenge of being the best band in the world then you better turn on your television, plug in your game system, and getting ready to rock your fans world!

Advanced technology

By: Casey Burns [Staff Writer]

Being in high demand, the iPhone 3G is a piece of technology that not very many students have. It acts closely like a computer. You have the ability to text, call, check e-mails, listen to music, watch videos from YouTube, surf the web, and a whole lot more.

There are many features that come on the iPhone. It comes with Safari, YouTube, texting, phone, GPS, and a camera. With Safari, you can search the internet for everything. It's very helpful because if you need to go to a certain website for information, you have it right at your fingertips. Texting is a breeze, once you get used to it. It has a full keyboard and when you want to see your whole conversation, you can. Everything is easy and more convenient. Going to the grocery store and having your list never could be so simple.

There are other features on this electronic device. You can get a ton of applications to put on it. There are quite a few that you can get for free that a lot of people do, but there are also many that cost anywhere from \$0.99 to \$89.99. You can also buy songs, movies, shows, music videos,

podcasts, and a whole lot more. It is really fun to just go on to iTunes and watch some of the movies and look at everything that is on there for people to buy.

There are some downfalls to this expensive item. Safari can be slow sometimes and when it doesn't get turned off every once and a while, it will like freak out on you and you have to reset it. If you are using other applications or on the internet a lot of the time out of the day, the battery will die a lot quicker than if you just listen to music occasionally and text your friends from time to time.

The black 8GB iPhone is only \$199 while the black and white 16GB is only \$399. When the iPhone 3G first came out in early July, a multitude of people were at AT&T trying to get it. They have still stayed a piece of technology that is in high demand and will stay in high demand for quite some time.

With the iPhone being in high demand, and being so much cheaper than the iPod, it's no wonder so many people want to get them. Even though some of the applications can be on the expensive side, there are so many things that people can get that everyone is sure to be happy.

iPhone Quick Facts

Cost: \$200

Payments: \$69.99/month

Colors: Black and White

Memory: 8gb and 16gb

Provider: AT&T



An iPhone is shown displaying the homescreen.

Kind hearts in our community and in our school for giving trees

By: Nicole Pratt [Advertising Editor]

The Holiday Giving Project is an annual project done here at Marion to help families in need during the sometimes-tough holiday season. It has been serving families in need since 1995 here in Marion. Students, parents, teachers, and administration throughout the Marion District work together to assist those families who are unable to purchase the traditional gifts during the holiday season. These specific families are chosen by building counselors, Michele Wilson and Nancy Alderdyce, based on income levels, students receiving reduced lunches, family situations, and this year specifically, families affected by the devastating flood of 2008. Many of the families do have one or two parents who are employed, but are still struggling. Others have had medical hardships, layoffs, etc.

During the holiday season, a tree is set up in our cafeteria with different presents to purchase and wrap for different families. Many groups and organizations participate in this every year such

as; Winter Cheerleading, SODA, FBLA, Student Senate, Win With Wellness, and the food drive. The organizers of this project include Mrs. Hamous, Mrs. Putnam, Mr. Zrudsky, and Michele Wilson. Individuals and groups work together each year to adopt families. The families involved in the project are asked to provide gift ideas for those involved to purchase. Each family is provided with gifts, nonperishable food from the food drives, and perishable food items by our food service staff. FBLA hosts a clothing drive to help out these families in need as well.

"By coordinating the efforts of so many generous groups, athletics, and individuals through out our school district we are able to reach more and more families in need each year," says Mrs. Hamous, one of the organizers of the Holiday Giving Project. Collaboration is a powerful and successful tool to make this project as successful as it has been in the past years, which is exactly what happened this past year during Holiday Giving Project. This program served 110 families who live in our community,

during the last holiday season, and more this coming holiday season. The success of this program would not be possible without the incredible efforts of everyone involved.

"The Holiday Giving Project is one of my favorite organizations that I am involved in. One of the number of families it touches is that the student groups come together to help. Mrs. Hamous shares Mrs. Hamous. Although she is the head person in charge of the project and is very busy working as our principal, she takes the time out of her already busy schedule to be a big part of the success of the project.

This year will be the fourteenth year that our school district has participated in the Holiday Giving Project. These families are grateful for the help offered to make their holidays a little brighter and it couldn't be done without the efforts of the students and staff of the Independent School District.

Top ten things to be thankful for...

1 Eating with the family

2 Seeing extended family

3 Seeing your friends

4 Eating all the food

5

Thompson: tragedy at a tender age

By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

Every year, families in Marion celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday to commemorate the things we all appreciate the most, whether it be family, friends, or relationships. No matter what is most appreciated, Thanksgiving is that one day of the year that you can tell them openly how much you appreciate them. As humans we tend to take things for granted, and we tend to get a little too comfortable with what we have in our lives. Thanksgiving is the perfect holiday to remind us of how lucky we are for the people that are in our lives. Junior, Trashon Thompson knows what it's like to lose someone that is close to him. About seven years ago his brother had a terrible accident that changed his life. "When I was ten years old my brother and I were walking the dog at the palisades and it ran off in front of him and he went the get it and fell off the cliff and drowned."

When something like that happens to someone when they're so young one might think that they would be distressed for a long period of time. "I was close with my brother I

didn't really take his life for granted," Thompson stated. When tragedy happens like that in some ones life, the person mind set changes. "Since that happened I really appreciate life more. I live everyday to the fullest," Trashon said. But with every bump in the rode that life throws at us you have get over those bumps and get stronger "I miss him a lot but you still got to move on. We spent everyday together and he was my best friend but I still have to be strong and move on from it." Thompson said with strength. Not only did his brother die it was a week or so before school started.

After the tragedy Trashon starting looking at life in a different light. "After it happened I improved the way I treated other people. I became for thankful and thoughtful for the people that were around me, you never know when you're going to leave your life forever," Thompson said with compassion. The hardest thing about coping with a death so close to home is getting your life back on track. "It took me awhile to back to normal but it's getting better. Each year that passes it gets easier to deal with."

One thing that can really make a difference in someone's recovery of a loved ones death is the support of your friends. "It doesn't really affect me everyday, but I still remember one thing, it was when Austin Weisinger gave me a sketch book, I still have it to this day," Trashon stated.

Trashon's brother died when he was at the meager age of ten he lost a very important person to him, his brother and his best friend. If you get one thing out of this, live your life day to day and love the people around you and take nothing for granted. Trashon said, "I wish people would not take their families for granted because they never know what will happen."



"I get together with family and friends to be thankful for everything we have."
- Alee Donahoe, sophomore



"Thanksgiving means being with friends, family, and celebrating a awesome day."
- Brandi Buehler, freshman



"I'm going to grandparent's house for Thanksgiving."
- Brandon Peiffer, freshman



"I think I can handle eating all the food at Thanksgiving."
- Cole Koe, freshman

Xiao learns new traditions while in Marion, Iowa

By: Elizabeth Smiley
[Staff Writer]

Many students and staff members here at Marion High School may be growing anxious for Thanksgiving break, but not Ziwei Xiao. Ziwei explained, "We are going to see relatives of my host family in Kentucky. It's a long drive that I'm not really looking forward to." Although her name is Ziwei Xiao, most everyone knows her as Echo, which is the English translation of her name. Echo is a senior and a foreign exchange student here at the high school. She has come all the way over from China. She lives in the Southern part of China in a city called Changsha, but for the next few months she is staying with a host family here

in Marion.

Echo is enjoying her time at Marion and is extremely thankful to be here. "I really like school, it's fun. My teachers are really patient and nice, but the lifestyle is slow," Echo explained. On Thanksgiving break, Echo is going to Kentucky with her host family to meet some of their relatives. This is her very first Thanksgiving. "I'm not really a holiday person, I came to experience the culture and I'm hoping to experience as much as I can and Thanksgiving and Christmas seem to a big part of that," Echo elaborated.

Although she is a long way from home, she stays in touch with her family and friends back in China. She often calls and emails them about her

experiences here in Iowa.

One of those experiences is the difference in cuisine. Echo hasn't had the chance to try many different dishes, but the mounds of food, such as turkey, pumpkin pie, mash potatoes, and green bean casserole at Thanksgiving dinner should take care of that.

Back at her home in China, they do not have Thanksgiving, but they have National Day and the Spring Festival. National Day is in October. The kids and adults get a week off from school and work. In the spring, they have the Spring Festival. It's a time where you get together with your family to exchange gifts and celebrate the year. According to Echo it's like a Chinese Christmas.

"I'm really thankful for my

teachers, my friends, they always back me up, and of course, my family. I'm thankful that I got the chance to be in the international program and experience this culture," Echo explained.

Echo is going to be staying with her host family until July of 2009. For now, she continues to swim and hang out with her host family. She is really looking forward to the rest of her year here in Marion.

6

No homework

8

Sleeping

10

Watching the parade

7

Watching football games

9

Playing cards with family.



"Thanksgiving means being thankful for everything in my life."
- Ellie Heck, sophomore



"I get to see people in that family that I never see."
- Sadie Magnifico, junior



"My favorite part is food and getting to see all of my family."
- Justin Scott, senior



"I have Thanksgiving day with my mom then the weekend with my dad."
- Emma Halfmann, sophomore



"Spending time with my family and napping... and usually working."
- Betsy Ryan, senior



"The best part is getting together with family where we celebrate it and being thankful."
- Dan Gosenberg, sophomore



"I love all the amazing food because my mom makes the best turkey ever!"
- Tayler Houchin, sophomore



"Spending time and playing cards with my family. Eating a lot of food, then nappy time."
- Dalton Schindler, senior



"To me it's all about all those traditions to celebrate with your family."
- Kristi McFarland, senior





Name: Drew Clark
Main Activity: Football
Other Activities: Track, backyard volleyball, NHS, Student Senate, NCYL
Season Highlights: Going 8-2, beating Oelwein in overtime, having a two-yard rushing average, rapping on the line.
Best High School Memory: backyard volleyball, Rockband, making rap videos, Friday night under the lights, and throwing at Drake stadium.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "At the end of the game, the king and the pawn go back in the same box." "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing

your enthusiasm." -Winston Churchill

Future Plans/Goal: Attend the University of Iowa and Major in Engineering while playing football.



Name: Shawna Van Meighem
Main Activity: Swimming/Diving
Other Activities: Wrestling cheerleading, track, SODA, Take Charge, NCYL, NHS
Season Highlights: Competing in my first 11 dive meet and placing in the top 20.
Best High School Memory: Going camping with Brad Rose, Alex Dean, Sarah Ernst, and Hunter Banes. We went tubing and Brad and Alex ripped the tube, so we went on an adventure to purchase a new tube!!
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Don't Sweat the small stuff.

Future Plans/Goal: Attend Buena Vista University and major in biology/chemistry and minor in Spanish. Attend medical school and become a pediatric hospitalist!!



Name: James Soldner
Main Activity: Football
Other Activities: Wrestling, NCYL, NHS, Win With Wellness(WWW)
Season Highlights: Getting 10 tackles during the Benton game, having a great senior season of football and making it to the play-offs.
Best High School Memory: Coach Sloan's stories, being with all my friends, football, Doc Tom's name-calling, hanging with Sam, Megan, Dalton and Austin in Austin's backyard, crazy car rides, randomly yelling at people at Wendy's, anything that happened in Building Trades. The event that caused me to give Matt Barnd his nickname.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Desire beats Talent" "Strive to be the best; work hard and stay focused on your goals. Anything can happen." "It's Basic Algebra"

Future Plans/Goal: Go to a four-year college and major in civil engineering while participating in the Army or Air Force ROTC program.

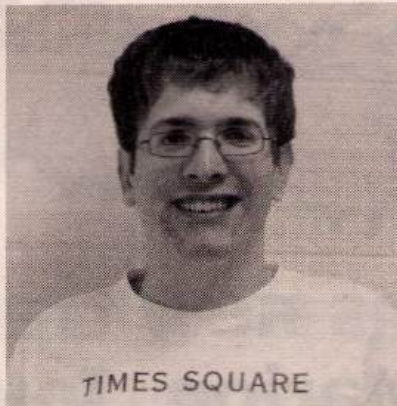


Name: Sammy Vest
Main Activity: Football Cheerleading
Other Activities: Competition Cheer, Wrestling Cheer, Musical
Season Highlights: Getting 2nd at state and not getting hurt or sick.
Best High School Memory: The white lightning, road trips, State wrestling, late night musical practice, Mr. Bates, Senorita Fowler's Spanish 4 class, Mrs. Jones coming to Marion, being part of the triangular giraffes, Rakey Roelfs, Football cheerleading, Coach Quinn pretending to be a monkey.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Life's not hard till you lose it.

Future Plans/Goal: Go to UNI.



Name: Brooke Ransier
Main Activity: Cheerleading
Season Highlights: Getting second place at state for the state cheer competition.
Best High School Memory: Prom
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live your life to its fullest.
Future Plans/Goal: I plan on graduating from a four-year college and living a happy, successful life.



Name: Sean Harrity
Main Activity: Band, Competitive Speech
Other Activities: Appearing in YouTube videos
Season Highlights: Buying too much fudge at Jordan Creek Mall before the Waukee Invitational
Best High School Memory: Appearing in the "I want your Biscuits" video
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Joe, I want your biscuits."
Future Plans/Goal: Go to University of Iowa and become a writer.



Name: Jake Roelfs
Main Activity: Football
Other Activities: Basketball and Baseball
Season Highlights: The comeback against Oelwein. My career game against Anamosa, where I had an interception for a touchdown (43 yards).
Best High School Memory: Gym class with Dos. All four years were awesome! Hanging with friends and having fun while I still can.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Live life to the fullest, don't hold any thing back." Cherish everyday in highschool, you never know if it could be your last
Future Plans/Goal: Go onto college. UNI/Kirkwood. Become an engineer or dealing with law.



Name: Jorden Morris
Main Activity: Dance
Other Activities: Choir, Musical, All-State
Season Highlights: Sitting in our bonding circle at camp and goofing around at practice until I got yelled at.
Best High School Memories: Making All-State my first year trying out.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Don't hate life and life won't hate you."
Future Plans/Goal: Attend UNI

WHY PAY MORE!

1/2 lb. Cheesy Bean & Rice Burrito

99¢

THINK OUTSIDE THE BUN

TACO BELL

Prices exclude tax. ©2008 TACO BELL CORP. Prices and items may vary by location.



Name: Betsy Ryan
Main Activity: Cross Country
Other Activities: Rippin' leaves with Nicole. Eating Doritos and drinking Mt. Dew with Sammy Boy on the bus.
Season Highlights: -Domming JV with NicHole -Pump-up music: Michael BuhStyle. Tunnel of love -8-mile practices -Getting pooped on by a bird.
Best High School Memory: -Gallivanting with Aubrey, Nicole and Monica -Freshman year cross country -Getting lost on the way back from state cross country with Kyle Hacker and Muriel and ending up in Illinois.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "I'll

be around foreva Rippin' leaves." - Kelsey Labs "It's a cashmink Muffler!"

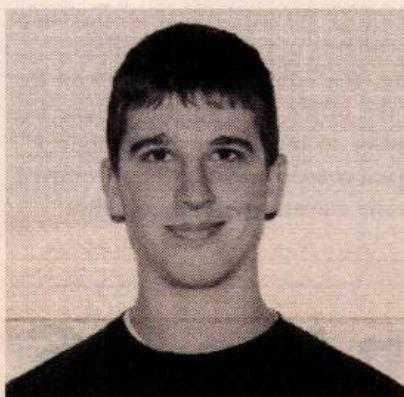
Future Plans/Goal: Go to college and hopefully not fail at life.



Name: Justin Swearingner
Main Activity: Band
Other Activities: Speech (group and individual), Winter Drumline, Choir, Vocal Varietas, Fall Musical, Spring Play, Creative Ink, NHS, Cross-Country, Thespians
Season Highlights: -Being recalled for All-State auditions -Watching "Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter" -The sword fight in "Once on this Island."
Best High School Memory: Being surrounded by such caring teachers and great friends...and a nice marimba.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Always do right. This will gratify some people

and astonish the rest." -Mark Twain

Future Plans/Goal: I plan to go off to college and major in one of the many things that interest me.



Name: Brad Rose
Main Activity: Football
Other Activities: Basketball, SODA
Season Highlights: The sweet comeback against Oelwein and a successful season.
Best High School Memory: Skipping school functions to hunt bambi. Hanging with all my friends in school and on sports teams.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: You have to hate to lose more than you love to win.
Future Plans/Goal: Going to Iowa State University to major in architecture or engineering.



Name: Josh Hogue
Main Activity: Playing video games and making people laugh, growing a beard. NO SHAVE NOVEMBER!! and making Jenna K. laugh in AP English
Other Activities: I also enjoy long walks on the beach and thinking about Dalton S.'s loving eyes and buldging biceps.
Season Highlights: Going to all the football games and freezing near the end of the season in my tube socks and shorts with matching headband baby!!!
Best High School Memory: My lunch table!! Also doing the water balloon toss and sliding in open parking lots with Ben in his car

during winter. Pencil mustaches.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Take classes that you think you would be interested in now or you'll run out of time. Also party hard, live long, don't regret a thing.

Future Plans/Goal: To hunt a lot!! Go to ISU for architecture or to be a teacher. Hunting of course will be in those activities. Peace Ya'll I'm out!!!

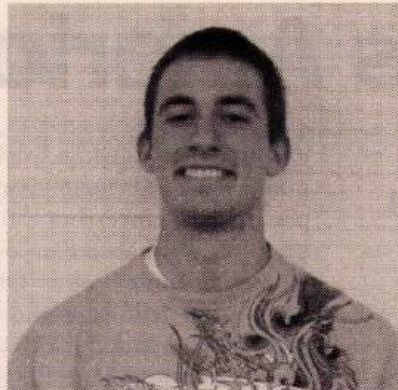


Name: Chelsey Banes
Main Activity: Football Cheerleading
Other Activities: Basketball Cheer, Competition Cheer, SODA, NCYL, NHS, Student Senate
Season Highlights: Crawdad on the table at team dinner. Coach acting like a crazy monkey. Making a rap to win the banana. Getting 2nd at state. Making All-Stars. Dominating camp. Getting all seniors up for the senior stunt. Having to wear ponchos at camps because of continuous rain.
Best High School Memory: Journo kids and Journo pets. School dances especially junior year homecoming. Driving to football/

basketball/and volleyball games. T-P'ing Pat's house in the rain, then almost getting attacked by dogs. Family library time with Sam, Megan, and Kayla and taking pictures with them for hours. Getting pulled over when Nicole was going 50 in a 25. Mr. Bates totem poel he made of pictures of him.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "If you chase two rabbits both will escape." Everything happens for a reason, always make the best of the bad times and the good times will come. Don't be afraid of who you are always be truthful not only to others but to yourself as well.

Future Plans/Goal: Attend the University of Iowa and major in Social Work.

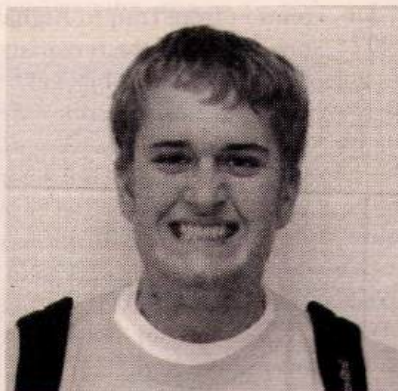


Name: Austin Hanna
Main Activity: Football
Other Activities: Baseball, Track, Take Charge, SODA, FBLA, Backyard Volleyball
Season Highlights: Making 2nd team all-district. Going 8-2. Beating Oelwein in OT. Barnd getting a pancake.
Best High School Memory: B.Y.O.S. Football games, Beating Oelwein in O.T. Making rap videos with my crew. Thursday night volleyball games. Rockband. Carrying my t.v. back and forth to Drew's house to play Halo. Dominating fools in Halo. Drew laying out Coach Foote at practice. Breaking my jaw. Hitting a 3 as time expired sophomore year.

Becoming an uncle. School dances and the after parties. Shake n' Bake with Levi. Amry's birthday party sophomore year. Meeting the most beautiful girl in the world, Bonnie. Calling Heather beautiful everyday during football. Levi and Barnd's intense boxing match. Friday morning breakfast. Donkey basketball. Picking up chicks at Nightstorm. Bus ride back from state basketball. Having good conversations with Matt Barnd. Hanging out with Dalton, Jimmy, Pat, Kayla, and Megan in my backyard. Fires at Ben's house. Hot Harry's. New Year's parties at Pat's.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Fish Sticks!" "Get Yours!" That's what she said!" "Freek Salt" "When things go wrong as they sometimes will, when the road you're trudging seems all uphill, when you're feeling low and the stress is high, and you want to smile but you have to sigh, when worries are getting you down a bit... by all means pray- and don't you quit. Success is failure turned inside out, God's hidden gift in the clouds of doubt. You can never when it seems so far. So trust in the Lord when you're hardest hit... It's when things go wrong that you must not quit!"

Future Plans/Goal: Go to college to major in engineering.



Name: Jesse Hubble
Main Activity: Track
Other Activities: Hanging out with my buds.
Season Highlights: Winning WAMAC twice in a row, getting to watch Z cut his lushish, long, flowing hair.
Best High School Memory: Getting on homecoming court and hanging out with people. Pencil Mustaches in Money Math with Ben, Josh, and Dalton.
Future Plans/Goal: I would like to go to UNI and major in business so I can be an important business man. Then get married and raise my kids like they do in 300.



www.aidtowomen.com

Free pregnancy tests

Completely confidential

Evening appointments available

Aid to Women

Respect. Answers. Support.

NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION:

1043 3rd Ave. SE • Cedar Rapids

CALL 862-2636

Obama gives America hope and change

After heated race, Obama beats McCain handily on election day and now has many issues to address

By Patrick Tiernan
[Editor-in-Chief]

As it read on the front page of *The Gazette* the day after history was made, "Yes, he did." This line, of course, was referring to the victory of Presidential elect Barack Obama. With a dominating victory over John McCain in which Obama received 349 total electoral votes compared to McCain's 163, the Senator from Illinois became the first African American president of the United States of America.

This victory will certainly go down in the history books and the upcoming years of Obama may go down as some of the most important in all of American history. With a plate load of problems to deal with including the economy, the War in Iraq, major flaws in our country's health care, and a disappointing education system, Obama will be busy from day one of his four-year term. Obama has some time, though, to ponder the issues as he and Vice President elect Joe Biden wait to be sworn into office on January 20th. There were a lot of promises made during the run for presidency from major parties, and now that we have our winner, it's time to look ahead at what is to come.

The subject that is most fresh and important on the minds of the majority of the population, and many agree is most important for Obama to address, is the economy. The country has not seen the Wall Street problems like this since the Great Depression and it's very likely this issue could make or break the Obama Presidency. Let's first look at what Obama has proposed. According to barackobama.com/issues/, Obama plans on helping the situation by creating new

jobs in America while working to help the middle class through tax cuts. Obama's plan includes investing 150 billion over the next ten years to create over five-million "Green friendly" jobs. Obama's planned tax breaks will ease the burden on the hardworking middle class and hopefully in turn help stimulate the economy.

Another very important issue is the War in Iraq which has been going on since March of 2003 and has cost the United States a total over 570 billion dollars according to www.nationalpriorities.org/costofwar_home. According to Obama's website he plans on responsibly ending the war as soon as the summer of 2010. Though he does not aim to have any permanent bases in Iraq, Obama wants to keep a remaining force around to conduct counter terrorism missions against al Qaeda to protect American diplomats and civilian personnel. Obama intends on pressing Iraq's leaders to take responsibility for their own future. He also plans on diverting the attention from Iraq to Afghanistan to finally put an end to the terrorists from 9/11.

As far as the subject of health care concerns, Barack hopes to make health care accessible and affordable to all Americans. According to Obama's website, Obama plans on improving the current system and will keep the existing providers, plans, and doctors. Barack's plan will lower the cost of health care by 2,500 dollars for a typical family. Obama intends on paying for his 50-65 billion dollar health care reform by rolling back the Bush tax cuts for people making over 250,000 dollars.

Another issue Obama has big plans for is education in America. According to BarackObama.com, Obama and Biden plan on reforming the No Child Left Behind



Barack Obama, President elect, speaks in front of a crowd about change and about what he will do as president. Along with Vice Presidential elect Joe Biden, Obama will take office on January 20th.

Law proposed by George W. Bush. Obama believes the majority of teacher's efforts should not be spent in preparing students to fill in bubbles on a standardized test and hopes to improve the assessments used to track student's progress in becoming ready for college. Obama also plans on creating a new American Tax Credit that totals 4,000 dollars. The credit is exchanged for community service and would greatly help the burden on students in paying for college.

For the time being, the country can only wait for Barack Obama to take office and put into place his plans that stand to offer so much. On November 4th, the majority of America voted for a man that promised change and it seems the country will get just that.

Diabetes on the rise

By Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

Minnesota with five in every one thousand.

Twenty years ago there was one student with diabetes in the entire district of Marion. Currently there are five students and four teachers in the Marion district that have diabetes. That may not seem to be much when compared to the total 2,087 enrollments in the district, but the case rates of diabetes are definitely increasing.

Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your body doesn't produce enough insulin to maintain healthy blood sugar levels. When you are diagnosed with diabetes you have to make some changes to your daily routine. You have to monitor your blood sugar levels by checking your blood multiple times a day. You then have to inject insulin into your body. The amount varies depending on how high or low your blood sugar is.

According to annecollins.com, in the past ten years, the number of new diabetes cases has more than doubled in America. More than twenty-three million Americans have diabetes. About 1.6 million new diabetes cases were diagnosed last year excluding the cases of people under the age of twenty. The annual rate of new cases has increased from roughly five people per every one thousand in the mid 1990's to roughly nine people per every one thousand in the early 2000's. The highest rate of new cases occurred in West Virginia with thirteen in every one thousand, the lowest was found to be in

Patterns show diabetes is more commonly found in people of the African American and Hispanic races. It is also more common in older people. Since the southern states have a higher population of older people and people of the African American and Hispanic races they generally have higher diabetes case rates. Studies show that of the new type two diabetes cases roughly ninety-percent were linked to obesity. Lack of physical activity and obesity have also been linked to heart disease. The obesity case rates have also been found to be increasing. There are many reasons that the obesity rates have increased over time. Part of this is overeating and unhealthy eating habits. The biggest cause is the environment around you. These reasons include what is made within your home for meals and the amount of fast food restaurants and the size of meals served there. This very well may be the reason that diabetes and heart disease case rates are also increasing.

The diabetes case rates are increasing rapidly and may have a greater impact than expected in the future. There currently is no cure for diabetes though researchers are currently working on cloning organs from animals that produce insulin and putting the organs into humans to make the insulin needed to maintain blood sugar levels. To lower your risk of getting diabetes you should work on staying fit, exercising, and eating healthy.

Economy crisis in the U.S

By Matt Barnd [Photo Editor]

The economy has reached levels lower than any seen since the great depression. Due to several factors, most notably the billions and billions of dollars in mortgage investments going bad, the crisis on Wall Street has continued to worsen. The federal government has taken several measures in response to the financial woes in an attempt to ease the strain put on the American people, which is felt throughout the country.

According to CNN.com, the trouble began early this decade when the economy was reduced to a recession and the Federal Reserve, in response, decreased interest rates to lessen financial fallout. These smaller rates caused mortgage prices to be cheaper as well, causing an increased amount of people to buy homes. This rise in demand bought the prices up, eventually causing the quality of mortgages to decrease. As homeowners tried harder and harder to purchase homes for even cheaper, and delinquency, or debt rates, began to rise, the rate at which loans were administered stayed the same. Events that followed caused the mortgages to go sour. Stock prices in the housing market continued to plunge and the government started to take action.

The Federal Treasury department took over several key payers of the housing market. Several other top insurance and stock companies were bailed out by the government in coming days. A bill that was proposed that would send billions of tax dollars to bailout Wall Street companies, but eventually refused by the House of Representatives. As stocks dipped to levels not seen since 1987, an amended bailout bill was ultimately passed, assigning an incredible 700 billion dollars to

benefit the drowning companies.

The stock market has been up and down since, but even the 'ups' were very low levels. The effect has been felt throughout the country. Thousands have been laid off. Recently, employees at several Cedar Rapids companies, including Rockwell Collins, have been forced to let workers go, most on a permanent basis. Families struggle everywhere to make ends meet every single day, even to the point of not having enough food to eat.

The recent reduction in oil prices has eased the strain a bit. This can affect everything from airline tickets, to the cost of food, along with lowering the price at the pump substantially. There is no doubt that this has helped, but an enormous problem still exists.

No one knows what the future will hold regarding the economy; it could worsen before any type of improvement, and it is impossible to tell to what extent this will happen. Whatever the case may be, it is important to note that no change will occur overnight. Much must be done from citizens and governments alike.



Many stock brokers check their shares at the New York Stock Exchange. Over recent months, substantial drops in stock prices have put tremendous strain on the country's economy.

New country, new experiences, new home

Amanda Spinelli, senior foreign exchange student from Brazil, loves her time at Marion

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

The twelve-hour plane ride had finally ended, and foreign exchange student Amanda Spinelli was in a whole new country and was about to meet her host family for the year. "It was so scary," Amanda stated, "I had a lot of butterflies in my stomach."

Along with Ziwei Xiao, also known as Echo, a foreign-exchange student from China, Amanda is calling Marion home for this school year. To be precise, she is calling Cari Winch's house home. Amanda joins Marion from Caçapava, Brazil.



Amanda Spinelli, Senior

For students here, high school would probably be very different if there wasn't football, homecoming, and not being able to see friends everyday. Life would also be different if we didn't have Halloween, snow, or Thanksgiving every year. Someone who is not used to all of these things is Amanda.

"We don't really celebrate that kind of stuff in Brazil," she said. "I'm not going to be excited about it until it actually happens;

it's just different because we don't have it in Brazil."

The seventeen-year-old, spends her time with friends, family, and her boyfriend, and also enjoys listening to music. Amanda explained, "[In Brazil] the music is different because they play American music and our music, and here they only play American music."

Music is a big part of life in America and in Brazil, but it is not the only thing the two countries share. "My friends and my boyfriend are very important to me, and

I like to hang out with them," said Amanda. "My family is also very important to me."

Wherever there are similarities, there are differences. According to Amanda, the differences are vast. "At my school in Brazil, we are not served lunch. We get two breaks during the school day, we have to wear uniforms, and the hours are different."

In Brazil, students attend school from 7 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Amanda stated, "We have to wear a uniform of jeans and a shirt of the school."

The size of Marion High School was also very different for Amanda, "It is really weird here because your school is really big. We also stay in one classroom [all day]," commented Amanda. "It is the teachers who change rooms."

In Brazil, the main language is Portuguese, which is another barrier that exchange-students face. "I was very afraid to come here because I was not so sure how well my English is," said Amanda, "but I am already doing better than I thought."

Along with the language barrier, another hurdle she faces is not being able to talk to her family everyday. Amanda uses modern technology to stay in touch with those she loves at home. "I use MSN or Skype, which allows my family to call from Brazil for free," she said. "It is also different living with just one person, because I have four at my home in Brazil."

One of her teachers, Ms. Duning, likes having a foreign exchange student. "I love it. It always seems like foreign students have a better work ethic and are more serious students than students from America," she proudly says. Amanda is a hard worker and doesn't like to do a half of a job. Duning also mentioned that Amanda is just like any other student she knows, in class she can



A map of Brazil is shown along with an arrow that identifies Caçapava, Brazil, the home town of Amanda Spinelli.

be serious, but she also has her silly side. "She just told me that they don't flush their toilet paper. In Brazil, they put it in a trashcan."

Even though it was a twelve-hour plane ride, Amanda is already adjusting to life here in Iowa. Like most MHS students, she spends her Friday nights cheering on the Indians, proudly wearing her red and gold. "I love football now. I don't know the rules, but I still love it." She is becoming an Indian already.

Ms. Schultz enjoying MHS so far

By: Patrick Tiernan
[Editor-in-Chief]

Going from a school district with a total of around 240 students to a high school with upwards of 700 students can be quite an adjustment for a teacher relatively fresh out of college, but for English teacher, Ms. Schultz the transition seems rather comfortable while in the midst of her first year at Marion High School. "I feel like I've handled the adjustment all right. It's been challenging because it is very different, but at the same time the core ideas are the same, I'm teaching English."

Ms. Schultz graduated from Avery High School in Wisconsin in a graduating class of 170, very similar to the size of MHS. After high school, Ms. Schultz attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She admits she wasn't sure of her major when en-

tering college, "I actually came into college undecided and I didn't really declare my major until the beginning of my junior year. Before then I was really unsure and I took a variety of classes to see what I was interested in and English class was what I ultimately enjoyed the most."

After Luther Ms. Schultz moved on to Olin, a preKindergarten through twelfth grade school roughly 40 minutes west of Cedar Rapids. At Olin, Ms. Schultz taught various types of English classes ranging from sixth grade to senior elective classes. One reason stuck out as to why Ms. Schultz made the switch to MHS; "I was looking for a different kind of variety. I'll admit I was looking for a lighter class load and because Marion is on the block schedule it would only be as high as three classes to prep for at a time." The biggest change for Ms. Schultz has been with the differ-

ences in the type of the two schools. "I would say the biggest adjustment has been between the age range that I'm dealing with here, going from sixth graders (at Olin) to twelfth graders, and the fact that the class sizes are larger here."

Ms. Schultz admits both sizes of school have their own benefits, "It's hard to compare the two because they are two totally different types of worlds. Both sizes of school have their

advantages." Advantages of a bigger school Ms. Schultz listed included getting to see a great number of students, getting to go into greater depth at least with the type of classes she teaches here, and a lot more opportunities for teachers, for students, and for activities.

There are many aspects of Marion that Ms. Schultz enjoys, "I like the fact that Marion is an in-between type of school. It isn't too large or small and it also offered the opportunities to teach upper level courses such as the A.P. classes. Also, I like the fact that there's an entire English department to collaborate with and bounce ideas off of."

Ms. Schultz has had a positive experience with MHS so far and commented, "Everyday has its quirks as it happens in teaching and I've enjoyed the variety of students that I see and the variety of topics I'm able to cover." As to the future, Ms. Schultz sees herself staying at Marion for a while; "I look forward to building a curriculum and building a rapport and [Marion] should be a good place for it." She also added, "I look forward to getting to know the staff better as time goes by and the students better as they progress through the high school."

Hopefully, Marion High School will prove to be a good fit for Ms. Schultz and she continues to enjoy her experience. A passion for education definitely lies within Marion's newest English teacher and it can be seen with her philosophy on teaching, "My goal is to bring English to students in a way that they will understand it, possibly by entertained by it, and at least at the end respect it, which will hopefully enable them to become lifelong learning citizens."

Easy transition for math teacher Logan

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Staff Writer]

From Franklin Middle School, to Vernon, and now Marion High School, Mrs. Logan has bounced from school to school for the past six years. "I currently teach Integrated Algebra one and two, but one year I taught math and science...let's just say it didn't go to well," joked Mrs. Logan.

Mrs. Logan graduated high school from West Delaware and attended college at the University of Northern Iowa. She began teaching shortly after at Franklin Middle School in Cedar Rapids. She has taught students seventh through twelfth grade and taught for half a year at Franklin Middle School and now for the past five years of her teaching career she has taught at Marion.

Many students at Marion also know Mrs. Logan as Coach Logan. She has coached eighth grade girls' basketball and is currently coaching eighth grade girls track and our cross-country team. "I love staying active and fit and coaching is a great way for me to do that and it gives me a chance to really get to know the students," she explained.

"In my opinion the most frustrating thing for me is negative attitudes, the negative Nancies," she laughed. For Mrs. Logan the hardest part of bouncing from school to school is learning the different curriculums and being comfortable enough to teach the material. She also finds it somewhat hard to adjust to the more expressive students. However, after all that hard work comes the best part, teaching. Mrs.

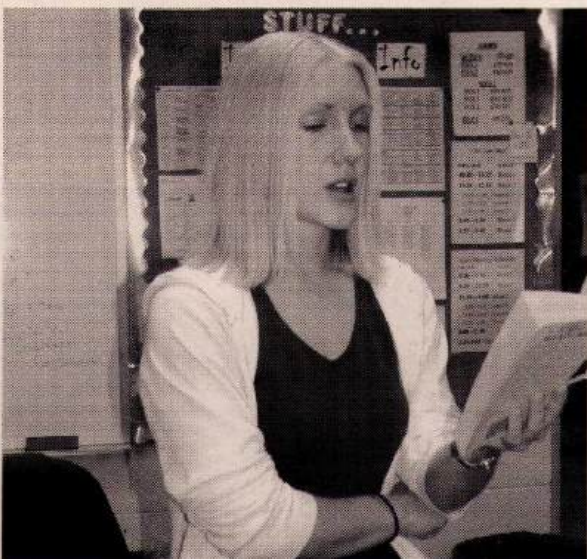


Mrs. Logan

Logan elaborated. "It's more fun to teach the harder, more difficult material."

Mrs. Logan also loves that fact that at the high school, more students care about their grades and their schoolwork. She explained, "I think more students care because this is what goes on their permanent record. What they do now affects them in the future."

Currently, Mrs. Logan has roughly fifty-percent of her previous students, from Vernon, in her classes, integrated algebra one and integrated algebra two. She paces her classroom as the students enter. The students walk in the door and quiet down, as they get ready to work. It's obvious that Mrs. Logan feels at home.



Ms. Schultz reads from *To Kill a Mockingbird* during the school day. This is the first year Ms. Schultz has taught at Marion after spending a couple years in the Olin School District.

Caution! Lava lurks below

Tyler Spear, sophomore, brings more to the game of freeze tag.

By: Scout Morehouse
[Activities Editor]

Wooden bridge rattling, footstep pounding on wooden planks above you, and occasional thump from someone who miscalculated their jump and fell straight to the ground. This isn't just any sport, this is Lava Tag.

Lava tag is one of those sports that nobody watches on TV, listens to on the radio, or reads about in a magazine. This means that many probably don't know what lava tag is. Well, lava tag is almost exactly like freeze tag except the people involved have to stay out of the lava. It may sound easy, but to be good the participants have to jump from place to place 10ft. above the ground, swing from one place to another, or even escape a tagger by scaling up a wall in less than 2 seconds. Sound easy now?

Luckily, I got a chance to sit down with a lava tag professional, sophomore Tyler Spear. Tyler has helped make lava tag so big but was originally shown by Marion graduates. "Matt Cronk and Brian Guler showed me, but Justin Guler, London and Scout Morehouse, and Markus Newton helped make it more popular," Tyler explains. "I play just because all my friends do and it's a nice way to hang out and do something you really love."



Tyler Spear, sophomore

Now of all sports why would someone pick lava tag? "Because it's the best sport in the world besides wrestling," commented Tyler.

With a new sport comes new players. "Yeah we make the new players 'it' first and I never get tagged so it's all good," said Tyler.



London Morehouse, junior, prepares to jump up and catch Taylor Rogers, freshman, during a game of Lava Tag at the Novak Playground.

There are currently only three places that you can play lava tag at which include the Novak playground, Indian Creek school playground, and Prairie High School. Each of these places are giant wooden playgrounds that are perfectly made to play lava tag. But there is a concern for participants with an increase in players is that there will need to be more places to play. Tyler commented, "We would like to find more places to play lava tag because everybody knows most of the hiding spots, and if we have a lot of people it's not as fun with a small area to play because the rounds take a long time to finish."

Lava tag can be a very tiring sport if you play for as long as the participants usually do. Tyler explained, "We usually play for about 2 to 3 hours or until it gets to dark to play." But that's not all that happens when people go to play lava tag. "We usually have a dance party on Justin's car when we get too tired to play," said Tyler.

So if you're looking for something to do with all your pals or a fun way to get out and get some exercise, then maybe you should stop by and play some lava tag. But beware, you could make a wrong step and that could land you into a boiling pit of lava.

Successful summer trip

By: Lauren Jilek [Staff Writer]

Everyone's idea of summer is very different and this past summer for senior Kelsey Labs was definitely that. She did something that was totally different from the rest. For eighteen days in July, Kelsey traveled with her parents to Mozambique, a country in Africa, for a missionary trip through her church. Kelsey explained, "It is one of those times where we were called to go on this trip. It made my summer a lot shorter because most of July consisted of this trip but it was something we felt inclined to do."

With this being Kelsey's first trip to Africa, she learned a lot the minute she got there up until the moment she left. "It was surprising to see people who live in dirt houses with no money and how happy and loving they all are."

Over the course of the eighteen days, many new experiences came about that involved a much different culture than the one her family was used to. Kelsey commented, "It was different to witness their culture. It is very male-dominated there. Women have to be covered past their knees. No affection is shown if you are dating or married, while holding hands if you are friends is considered acceptable. It just wasn't what we were used to."

Although the way that the Mozambique people live appeared to be very different from Kelsey's life, she also found things that were the same as the culture and customs here in the United States. Kelsey elaborated, "Teenagers are very much the same here. They are fun. They love to joke with friends and be involved in activities. Everyone is so curious and wanted to be included in anything going on with us, including learning more about how we live."

Kelsey was not only with her parents, she was also with other people from the United States. "We went to church with everyone four times a week: Tuesday and Thursday nights and Sunday morning and night. We danced and sang with them and even made testimonies about our faith and how it brought us here."



Kelsey Labs, senior

Not only did Kelsey and her family have to get used to the new customs, they also had priorities and objectives that needed to be completed before they left. "We were to worship with them and show them we were there for God. We were especially with kids a lot, playing games and just having a good time. We also worked with a program called Project Life, which was a group of people with AIDS. These people were given meal plans and our main goal was to just introduce them to what our faith has done to change our lives for the better."

Upon returning to the United States, it was a much different feel for Kelsey. "It was hard to get back into my routine, but coming home, I am much more appreciative of what I have and can be more aware of others' lives."

Looking back at deciding to make the trip to Mozambique, Kelsey has noticed that not everyone can make such a big trip like this. "It was important for us to be open to any and all new experiences. It also had a lot to do with our faith. I have been strong in my faith for a while now, even through sports and school, so that carried through into my decision of traveling there."

Kelsey had many positive things to say about her trip and was happy with the time that she spent there. Overall, it is clear that her and her family's trip to Mozambique over the summer was a successful one.



Kelsey Labs, senior, holds a young child from Mozambique during her family's mission trip.

Gainful experience found in Phoenix

By: Samuel Kiburz [Design Editor]

Summers are different for all students here at MHS. Some students work their summer away, and try to save money for the school year, while other students sleep the summer away. But one student here at MHS did something totally different from the rest, senior Shawna VanMeighem is that one student. Shawna attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. Shawna was elected by a teacher to attend this Forum, which was held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Shawna was there for ten days. In those ten days she did everything from visiting hospitals to listening to doctors of the medicine profession to speak about their lives in medicine. Shawna even got to witness a surgery. "I got to see this guy get a knee replacement. It was really gross, but at the same time it was really cool to see. I got a lot of first hand experience," Shawna stated.



Shawna Van Meighem, senior

na stated.

For the first couple of days it was all lectures about the medicine world. "I learned so much just from listening to the speakers talk about their careers, it was awesome to here them talk about what I want to do myself," Shawna stated. But

"I want to help kids that have health problems and help save their lives,"
-Shawna Van Meighem, senior

then after all of that got out of the way Shawna got to get into the fun stuff. She visited different schools of medicine, hospitals, and offices. All of which she got to choose the location. Shawna chose to visit the children's hospital because she wants to be pediatrician. "It was a lot of fun going to the children's hospital, it was so fun because that's the kind of doctor that I want to be after college. When I become a pediatrician I want to work in a children's hospital, mostly because I want to help kids that have health problems and help save their lives," Shawna said with passion.

While she was there she even got to dissect a human cadaver's brain. "At first I was kind of grossed out but once I knew what I was doing

it wasn't as bad as I anticipated," Shawna said. It was a great experience for Shawna.

Being in such a prestigious environment, she had a certain dress code the whole time while she was there. There were three different kinds of looks that she had to have clothes for. She couldn't stray away from those looks either. The three looks were, professional, business casual, and relaxed professional. Professional consisted of wearing, black dress pants; button up shirts or sweaters, and flat shoes. Business casual consisted of khaki pants, collared shirts, and dress shoes. Relaxed professional consisted of her wearing the same outfit as professional, except she could wear more comfortable shoes.

For Shawna this was such a great experience and she met a lot of new people. She was gone for ten days and missed some of her summer vacation, but gained more from it in the end than she lost. "The purpose for me going to this Forum was to explore the medical field, also to give me a little insight on the profession. Those ten days really made me want to be a doctor some day," Shawna stated. "When I got home I was really ecstatic to get going on looking for schools and the applying process. I was ready to go," Shawna said.

Big work load is taking over free time

Seniors Joe Begley and Dustin Ivey work a lot for only being in high school, but both enjoy the benefits of the extra money

By: Haley Berry [Staff Writer]

Working 25-35 hours a week seems like a lot of work for the average high school student doesn't it? But for senior Joe Begley, that's what he works almost every week.

Joe has worked at Gordmans since April 2008. He is only getting a little bit over minimum wage, but working hours like he does has its advantages. "[I get a lot] of cash," claimed Joe. "Big pay checks."



Joe Begley, senior

Although working so many days, including weekends, has its disadvantages as well. "I have no time for extracurricular activities," explained Joe, "and I don't have any time for my lady friend."

Joe explained to me that he has to work so much to pay his own bills, such as paying his own cell phone bill, and for his own gas.

Joe also talked about a job he didn't like as much, J&A printing, which is a printing company, "I didn't like it as much because I

counted stickers."

With working so much, it's hard to find some free time for things in his life, like spending time with his "lady-friend," Taylor Yirkovsky. Taylor responded, "I hate having him work so much, but as long as I get to tell him goodnight before bed, I'm good." When he does get the time to do things, he uses his free time to hang out with Taylor, play XBOX 360 with his friends, and spend money on new Nike shoes.

Joe said he was looking forward to graduation as well, he added, "I want to be some sort of engineer in the future, but right now I'm stuck with picking up, moving freight, cashiering, and just helping out." Joe looks like he is doing pretty well at Gordmans, but is still looking for something better.

There is also another student here at MHS who works quite a bit. Senior Dustin Ivey works at the Galaxy Cinema in Cedar Rapids, and puts in almost 40 hours a week!

When I asked Dustin if it's even worth working so much, his answer was very similar to Joe's. "It's nice because I can afford to go out and have fun, and I can also afford to pay bills." He also told me he doesn't get much free time as he would like.

A positive Dustin likes about working is that he gets to meet new people, and that's always a plus. Again though, there are some negatives, "I really just don't have any free time, I work late usually, and barely get sleep."



Joe Begley, senior, places an item on the shelf while working at Gordmans. Begley works around 25-35 hours a week and spends much of his free time working.

Though he works a lot Dustin doesn't exactly believe it's the best thing for high school students to be constantly busy. "I think [high school students] should work some, but not as much, you're in high school, you are supposed to enjoy it."

In the future, both Joe and Dustin plan on continuing with their positive work ethics, which are sure to get them a long way. Though both would enjoy a little more free time, extra cash is always a good thing too.

CHAMPS helps kids in need of friendship and guidance

By: Elizabeth Magorian [Staff Writer]

What's a champ? Champs is when a high school student helps a student that's in kindergarten through fifth grade. Each high school student gets assigned a certain kid to help Jessica Bittner is a senior here at Marion High School, and is the student coordinator for champs. Jessica has been involved in champs for 3 years. She hasn't always gone to Marion. She went to Guttenberg for seven years and came to Marion her 8th grade year. Jessica is involved in band Fast and Champs. She likes doing Champs because she likes to help out little kids. Jessica and the kid that she is helping do a lot of activities. They go to the mall and anything they want. It's mostly on the weekends that members of champs do their activities.

"There are kind of a lot of people, about 24," said Jessica. Champs is a volunteer program. So by doing champs you get

volunteer hours for school. Jessica said Champs doesn't take up a lot of her free time because you do it about two times a month. When asked if it's hard to manage schoolwork with being involved in Champs she said "no".

When asked what does champs stand for Jessica replied, "She knows it does stand for something but isn't sure what exactly what it is." What's Jessica's favorite part of champs? She explained, "It all blends together." It's too hard to decide what's her favorite part because they are all good. The hardest thing about champs for some people is the time commitment. Being able to commit two times to hanging out with you chosen person. The main goal for champs is to help little kids, be a friend to that kid, and help them with anything that you might be able to help them with. Champs is a fun volunteering activity to be involved in and is always welcome to new comers.

Just for a laugh

By: Lauren Jilek [Staff Writer]

Many people have many different ideas of how to have a good time or even just to pass time. During times where someone doesn't have homework to do, practices to attend, or family gatherings to attend, what is there to do? For Marion students Alex Ditzenberger, senior, Isaac Glidewell, senior, and multiple others, recording and posting comedic videos on YouTube is what they do best.

"Starting last year, we started using YouTube for our videos," Alex stated. "YouTube is quite the big thing nowadays. Just about anyone can get on the internet and look at it." YouTube is the popular video-sharing website where anyone may upload or view the video clips. Whether it is a television series you're watching, a music video, or funny candid snippets of friends, it is certainly a huge hit. As of early this year, it is said there are over 83.4 million videos to watch on the YouTube website. Videos can also be seen in over twelve different languages as well. This allows for many creative opportunities for anyone interested.

"Our videos are made for fun and a lot of inside jokes are in

most of them. Most people who would watch them would probably think it's just weird," Alex commented. "Isaac would always walk around with his small video camera, ready for anything."

When asked about when and how filming took place, Alex responded, "we don't choose something to film about. If Isaac would see anything particularly funny, he would bust out his video camera."

Many people are involved in the making of these videos. Extras come up in multiple videos and most are involved in band. In the past, it has been Megan Scheer or Sean Harry. "A lot of the time, it's random people. Sometimes we don't even know who they are."

It is clear that the videos these guys make are certainly something interesting to check out. "People who have seen them thought they were pretty funny. They were easily amused. We

make these videos just for laughs."

As everything started over a year ago, it appears that there seems to be no slowing down. "I'm sure the squad is already thinking about senior videos for this year." With nearly many views on many videos and more to come, it looks like these creative videos are something to look at.



Alex Ditzenberger, senior



Alex Ditzenberger, senior, goes after Sean Harry's wallet during what could become another hilarious video posted on their popular YouTube site.

How do you feel about the ITED tests?



"I dislike them because who wants to go in and spend three hours taking a test."
-Rachel Reid, junior



"I've never taken them, but I'm not very excited."
-Brady Ranney, freshman



"I dislike the Iteds because they are boring."
-Jed Seeman, junior



"I think they'll be okay, and it's less class time."
-Mikayla Goemaat, freshman



"They are boring and not fun at all, but I like that you get to eat animal crackers ... and have some social time."
-Debbie Classon, sophomore



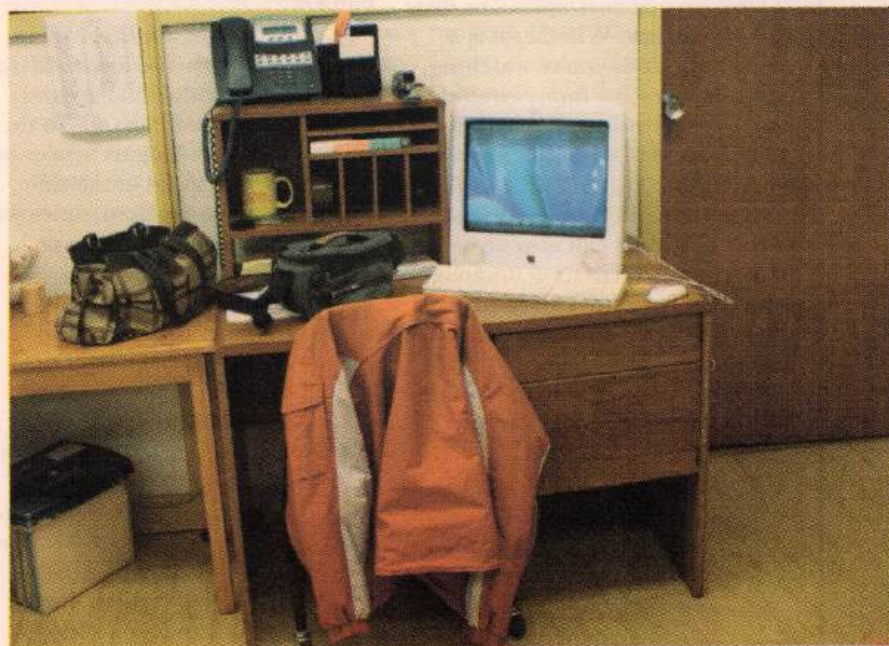
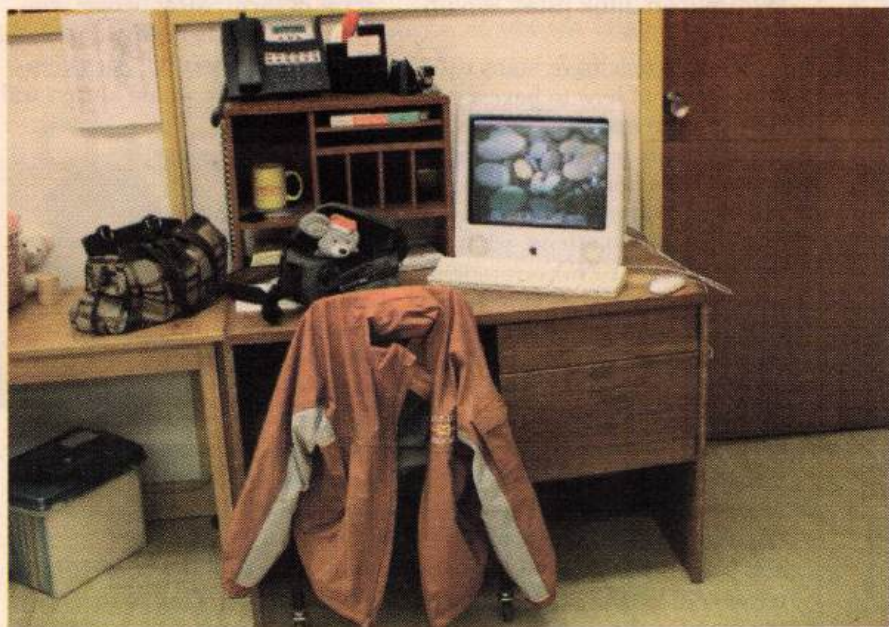
"I think they're necessary but we shouldn't have classes afterwards."
-Cayton Grogan, sophomore

Sudoku

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

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

What's Different?



Picture Differences

Coat flipped, screensaver of computer changed, mouse added to bag, book moved down one shelf, phone receiver flipped upside down, tape in shelves moved to the left, tape dispenser added.

Sudoku Solution

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

You Become- Alone

A Creative Ink poem by Chelsea Meyer

You are—
Worshipping passionately
Adoring endlessly
Devoting uncontrollably

You experience—
The bittersweet feeling of knowing everything is running smooth
The pleasant conclusion someone is holding your precious heart
The passionate sensation of understanding how everything works

You envision—
The white picket fence framing the remarkable house
The warm happiness with each loving sight
The soft 'I Love You' with every breath

You endure—
The painful unknowing resulting in the agonizing late entrance
The speechless response by cause of a repulsive guilt
The scented fumes lying upon the cotton turquoise polo

You become—
The abandoned with inaudible words
The deserted with lacking reason
The one with a broken crimson heart without love

You start—
The realization of being broken hearted
The emotion of feeling unbearable pain
The continual flow of salty tears

You are—
Undesirable

You experience—
Despair

You envision—
Unhappiness

You endure—
Regret

You become—
Alone

You start—
Over



My Life is...

a constant juggling act,
*but the one thing I
don't worry about
is Birth Control!*

I use long-acting reversible birth control! It's worry free and easy and available at Planned Parenthood. Call (319) 363-8572 today to find out if you qualify for an IUD or Implanon™ at no cost!

Planned Parenthood
of East Central Iowa
3425 1st Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids
(319) 363-8572 • www.ppecci.org

**Planning
is Power.**